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Britons die in Nile massacre

Terrorists open fire as tourists arrive at Valley of the Queens

By Christopher Walker and Emad Mekay

AT LEAST 69 foreign tourists, including two Britons, were killed yesterday when terrorists armed with machineguns opened fire on tour buses in Egypt's Valley of the Queens. Six terrorists and three policemen were also reported to have died in a three-hour gunfight that followed the massacre outside the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut. A further 16 critically injured tourists were flown to a military hospital in Cairo, 300 miles away, and another five Britons were still unaccounted for last night.

The attack — believed to have been carried out by Islamic militants — was the bloodiest blow yet to President Mubarak's moderate regime and it threatened to devastate the country's £1.7 billion tourist industry.

Tour operators all over the world were last night considering whether to pull out of Egypt and companies with visitors already there were offering to fly them home early. The Foreign Office warned people to avoid Luxor, which is now under curfew, saying it could not guarantee their safety there.

Egyptian officials said that the attackers, wearing black clothes similar to those worn by police, had burst into the courtyard of the 3,400-year-old desert temple near Luxor shortly after 9am and started firing indiscriminately on tourists when they climbed out of their buses. As the tourists ducked for cover, police guarding the site fired back.



Egyptian soldiers carry away the body of one of the six terrorists who were killed in their three-hour gun battle at the Temple of Hatshepsut

terrorist attack. We later saw at least 30 policemen rushing to the temple. It was all very chaotic.

Officials were unable to identify all of the tourist victims as many had left their passports at their hotels, but the Swiss Embassy in Cairo reported that 25 were Swiss, nine were Japanese, seven Germans, two British and a Bulgarian were among the dead. The Foreign Office confirmed that two Britons had been killed and there were

reports that a third had died. Four others were either missing or unaccounted for.

Luxor is used both as a base for tourists visiting the Pharaonic tombs in the Valley of the Kings and Queens on the west bank of the Nile and as a starting point for Nile cruises. About 250 boats are cruising the river at any one time, and many have shifted their base to Luxor from Cairo because of fears of attacks there.

Yesterday's attack came as the Egyptian tourism minis-

ter, Dr Mamdouh El Beltagi, was in London trying to boost the number of Britons visiting his country. He said: "We are shocked and we feel sorrow about what has happened today. I can't predict what is going to happen about tourism, but our Government is doing all it can to ensure travellers' safety."

But even as he spoke, tour operators were making arrangements to pull their customers out. Saga Holidays, which caters for the over-50s,

said it was bringing all clients out of the country and cancelling its flights to Egypt until further notice. Forty of its travellers were being flown to Cairo last night to await a flight to Heathrow tomorrow.

Thomson, which has 1,300 tourists in Egypt, said it was cancelling its three flights to the country tomorrow and was bringing home early anyone who did not want to stay. Thomas Cook said: "Anyone who wants to leave will be flown home early and anyone

due to travel can get their money back or transfer to another destination."

Up until yesterday, 34 foreigners had been killed in the terror campaign designed to force President Mubarak to accept the Islamic code Sharia. The deadliest attack was in April last year when 18 Greek tourists, who were mistaken for Israelis, were killed near the Pyramids of Giza.

18,000 women recalled for new tests

By Ian Murray
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE accuracy of cervical smear tests was again in question last night after 18,000 women were warned that more than 3 per cent of them could wrongly have been given the all-clear.

This latest case comes from the pathology department of the Hospital of Saint Cross at Rugby in Warwickshire. A random check on 500 tests taken between January, 1995, and April of this year has discovered that 16 of the women should have been recalled because of abnormalities discovered on their slides.

This is the eighth case of failure by the smear test service since it was set up in 1988 and follows a damning report last month of incompetence by the service at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Instead of seeing 15,000 slides a year — as recommended under government guidelines — the Rugby unit was having to look at only 7,500. As a result the staff lacked the necessary practice at spotting the abnormalities.

Warwickshire Health Authority decided in May to move all the screening work to the Walgrave Hospital in Coventry and to carry out a random test of 500 slides from among the women who had been to the Rugby hospital over the previous three years.

This showed a worryingly high number of abnormalities had been missed so yesterday the decision was taken to reassess all 18,000. The reassessment is expected to take about three months.

"The vast majority of them are certain to be all right," a spokesman said. Women may call a 24-hour helpline on 0800 783 0520.

MPs to question Jowell over ban

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, will come under fire from a Commons watchdog over the decision to exempt Formula One from the EU tobacco sponsorship ban. MPs on the European Legislation Committee will interrogate her before deciding whether the issue should be debated in the Commons. **Page 2**

Russian allies

Shell and BP yesterday announced alliances with Russian partners worth \$1.7 billion and aimed at developing huge gas reserves in Siberia. **Page 29**

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Tories say league tables vindicate their policy

By John O'Leary and David Charter

TORIES claimed that their educational policies had been vindicated yesterday as categories of school created by the last Government in the teeth of Labour hostility dominated tables of those that had most improved.

Four city technology colleges appear in the 20 most improved schools in tables published today, while a third of those whose scores have risen for three successive years are grant-maintained. Legislation to be introduced in the next few weeks will abolish grant-maintained status.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, singled out three of the most-improved local authority schools for special praise and Ministers stressed the value to parents of listing more than one year's results.

But Stephen Dorrell, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said the tables showed that grant-maintained schools and city

technology colleges were among the best performing schools in England.

"Why does Mr Blunkett insist on destroying the grant-maintained system when the evidence points so unambiguously to its success?"

Of the 4,000 schools, 240 have shown increased GCSE scores every year since 1994. Seventy-four of those are grant-maintained, although the sector represents less than a quarter of secondary schools. Harris City Technology College, Upper Norwood, south London, has shown the most improvement over the period, while three of the 15 CTCs also appear near the top of the improvement table.

Senior government sources denied any embarrassment over the composition of the list. "This is a good cross-section of schools of all categories in all areas of the country. Of course a representative proportion will be GM schools."

And opponents of Tory policy said the success of CTCs and grant-maintained schools reflected the extra funding they received from the last Government and covert selection policies adopted by many schools. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Local authority schools have not had a level playing field on which to compete with CTCs and grant-maintained schools."

Other unions said the tables were misleading because they took no account of schools' intakes. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the tables were "dangerously unreliable" and regretted that the Government had persisted with a system of measurement which did not identify the best or worst GCSE results.

Almost 100 schools, three-quarters of them independent, saw all their candidates pass



"I'm happy with the school tables, it's the Premiership table I think is unreliable"

five high-grade GCSEs. Of them, Withington Girls' School, in Manchester, registered the highest A-level score.

Buckinghamshire, which still runs a grammar school system, tops the local authority table for the first time, after splitting from Milton Keynes Council in the Local Government Review in April.

The most improved local authority is the east London borough of Newham.

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Photograph, page 28
Supplement

MI5 reveals secrets of the spies

CLASSIFIED MI5 files released yesterday describe how German spies used simple lemon juice and eau de cologne as "invisible" ink (Michael Evans writes). They even put a secret message on the skin of a Belgian woman.

The documents, the first MI5 files to be published in the organisation's 88-year history, were released by the Public Record Office at Kew. They underline the serious threat posed by German spies before and during the First World War. But MI5, then a tiny group broke up their network.

The files reveal that one spy had special codenames for warships — "Pirates of Penzance" for destroyers, and "Modern Eve" for new small cruisers. Another spy called battleships "Dutch cheese".

The files also reveal how Sinn Féin plotted to help German troops and arms land on the west coast of Ireland at the end of the war.

Farcical secrets, page 13



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City high-flyer prepares to turn from Mammon

By Damian Whitworth

WHERE St Francis led, one of the City's highest-flying young executives is to follow. Jim O'Donnell, chief executive officer at HSBC James Capel, is to forsake the riches of an international stockbroking career to become a priest.

Mr O'Donnell, 36, a towering former American football player and native of New York, astonished colleagues when a memo announcing his career change was circulated yesterday.

There was general disbelief

laughter. He is hardly known for being spiritual, said one.

"The man himself was reluctant to discuss whether, like St Francis, his new life of poverty and prayer had followed a vision or if he had been thinking long and hard on Matthew's words about camels, eyes of needles, rich men and the Kingdom of Heaven.

The average earnings of a Catholic priest in the United States are \$10,000 (£5,950) a year, although board and lodging and a car are also provided. Mr O'Donnell now earns up to £1 million a year, including bonuses, so if he has wisely invested some of that —

as he of all people should have done — he is unlikely to be too hard up. Mr O'Donnell cheerfully referred callers to a spokeswoman yesterday. "He is to pursue a vocation in the Catholic priesthood," she said. "It's a very personal decision."

Mr O'Donnell will relinquish his London post as chief executive of the equities division of the company, which is owned by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, at the end of next month.

He will then give up transatlantic hopping to continue as chief executive officer of HSBC Markets Inc in New

York until next summer when his religious career will begin in earnest, probably in America. "He's a giant," said Krishna Patel, his deputy, who will take over in the hot seat. "But he's a very gentle giant."

Bernard Asher, his chairman, said he would be sad to lose him. "But I am not losing him in the sense that one loses people to competitors or industry and so on."

"To lose someone to the church is rather unique. I think it is rather a tribute to have people working for you who have the strength of character to decide to go into the church."



Finding the right punchline for an ethics girl

Madam Speaker, cried Simon Hughes, MP, yesterday, opening a Liberal Democrat-inspired debate on something or other. "We are the people's constructive opposition."

MPs headed in droves for the gangways and exits in a kind of panic. Journalists followed. If there is one thing worse than name-calling and vulgar abuse (which of course all MPs deplore) it is constructive opposition. All of us are in favour of reasonable debate, so long as we do not have to listen to it and to voice the word "reasonable" in the Commons chamber produces a similar effect to shouting "fire" in a crowded theatre.

Happily, the session preceding Mr Hughes's debate positively

bristled with anger, ambush, fear and loathing — and that was just between social security ministers in the same government. Principal protagonists in this puff-adders' nest are Harriet Harman, Secretary of State, and Frank Field, her Minister of State.

Something about the Social Security Secretary's karma whispers terror. One way the merciless Field likes to terrorise his prey is to copy the technique of a snake stalking bird. Yesterday, Field never uttered, nor moved, until more than halfway through the session. He scarcely seemed to breathe, but stared immobile and unblinking in her direction. Once, after about half an hour of this war of nerves, Field

suddenly did move. I saw Harman flinch. But he was bluffing. He moved only to fetch himself a glass of water; then returned to his noiseless, serpentine vigil.

As a bird can be petrified by this icy aggression, so Harriet Harman seemed somewhat hypnotised, trance-like, as she spoke. Yesterday, with Field eyeballing remorselessly, her chirrup took a desperate edge. This may explain why she began intoning, like a mantra, the same eight words. Over and over again, in a sort of chant, she

droned, "Reforming the welfare state around the work ethic". We began waiting for the little ring on a bell, employed by adherents of the Shinto religion, apparently to bring the thing they chant for.

Richard Spring (C, W Suffolk) asked about help for the disabled. Reforming the welfare state around the work ethic" chanted Miss Harman. Ting we thought, Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) called Labour's promise to stick to Tory spending plans a kind of "two-

year quarantine" for socialism. "Reforming the welfare state around the work ethic", chanted Harman. Ting.

Christopher Chope (C, Christchurch) mentioned single mothers. "Reforming the welfare state around the work ethic", chanted Harman. Ting.

She is not the only culprit. Gordon Brown keeps grunting "an end to the economics of boom and bust" (9 words) while Tony Blair is much given to "education [housing/health or whatever] for the many and not the few" (eight words).

Ting, Ting.

Maybe the Government has

embraced Shintoism, believing that to achieve their heart's desire all they need do is announce a review, then start chanting the appropriate eight or nine-word mantra over and over again — until the thing just happens, of its own accord.

Bafflement settles. Upon Madam Speaker it is closer to fury. Yesterday, asked by Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewes) how to persuade ministers to make announcements affecting his constituents in the chamber rather than Sunday newspapers, Miss Boothroyd deplored the habit angrily. He should put down a question at once, "seeking information as to how and why".

"It would be helpful to me in what I'm trying to do," she added with passion.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH



EU presses ahead with euro council

Brushing aside Britain's doubts, 11 member states voted to set up a body to help to bring in monetary union, reports Charles Bremner

BRITAIN and three smaller EU states were given a glimpse yesterday of life outside the single currency when the other 11 countries ignored their objections and pushed ahead with plans for a new council to manage the euro.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and finance ministers from Sweden, Denmark and Greece received a polite hearing when they complained about their Governments' likely exclusion from the new euro council, a body in which the countries due for monetary union plan to co-ordinate their policy. Though theoretically informal, the forum is likely to become a power centre, sapping the authority of the full 15-member Ecofin council.

Ministers reassured the outsiders that Ecofin would remain the forum for official business and lawmaking and they promised to keep them informed. However it was made clear that the best they could hope for was an observer's seat.

France took the strongest line against the "outs".

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Finance Minister, said all 11 likely euro members backed the creation of a council. "Whatever happens, it will

come about, so it is better that we do it in an organised framework," he said.

The non-member four were "wrong to feel excluded", he said. Non-members on the verge of joining monetary union should be given special association, he said but the rules he proposed would exclude Britain unless it signed up to the exchange-rate mechanism or took steps to join the currency at a set date in the near future.

Mr Brown put his case to Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, in a private meeting, and won an assurance that Britain would not be cut out of decision-making. The Germans also said Britain would obviously have no vote when it came to running policy in the euro zone.

The Chancellor played down the skirmish, saying the "nobody pushed any proposals today to a final conclusion... I am quite satisfied that we are in a strong position to protect British interests."

The Scandinavian ministers took a sharper line, denouncing the euro council as a dangerous scheme that could divide the EU. Marianne Jelved, the Danish minister, said there was no provision in



Gordon Brown with Theo Waigel, German Finance Minister, who said Britain would not be cut out of decisions

the Maastricht treaty for the new body. "I fear the consequences will be a splitting of the union," she said.

The 15 ministers hope to settle the council squabble before next month's EU summit in Luxembourg. Further clearing the way for the

euro, they agreed yesterday that the currency's notes and coins would be introduced on January 1, 2002. This was the last possible date set by EU leaders in 1995. The ministers also approved a final design for the coins after restoring Greek, Spanish and Danish

islands that had not figured on the original, etching on one side of the coins. "You need a magnifying glass to see them, but they're all there," said Philippe Maystadt, the Belgian minister.

The finance ministers were close to agreement last night

on a package of job-creating policies that EU leaders will launch at a summit in Luxembourg on Friday. Mr Brown hailed the summit package as a largely British-inspired effort that would create a "major breakthrough in the way that Europe looks at employment".

Rebel MP renews his threat to Hague

By Nicholas Wood

WILLIAM HAGUE was facing a renewed threat of defection from Tory ranks over the single currency last night. The pro-Europe MP Peter Temple-Morris intends to tell local party workers that he will not be a Conservative candidate at the next election unless Mr Hague drops his opposition to the euro.

Mr Temple-Morris's threat came as a Tory peer who chaired one of the Conservatives' most influential think-tanks defected to the Liberal Democrats. Lord Thomas of Swynnerton, who, as Hugh Thomas, headed the Centre for Policy Studies for 11 years until 1990, said that he had become "ill at ease" with the party's policy on economic and monetary union. He said the party's attitude to the EU had "become ever more critical and sceptical".

Mr Temple-Morris will also tell his party in Leominster that if the Tories pursue a rabidly anti-European stance for the rest of this Parliament, he will resign the Tory whip and sit as an "Independent One-Nation Conservative". Last month Mr Temple-Morris only pulled back from defecting to Labour after a supportive intervention by Michael Heseltine.

Letters, page 23

Jowell faces censure over tobacco decision

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

TESSA JOWELL faces criticism tomorrow from a Commons watchdog over the Government's decision to exempt Formula One from the European Union's tobacco sponsorship ban.

MPs on the European Legislation Committee intend to interrogate the Public Health Minister on Britain's position on the EU directive before deciding whether the issue should be debated in the Commons. The move came as it emerged that the Government is now considering a compromise over the Formula One exemption which has provoked the most damaging political row since the election.

Health ministers are determined to ensure EU-wide agreement for a tobacco sponsorship ban at the next meeting of the council of ministers on December 4, but Britain's present position is for an indefinite exemption for Formula One. Whitehall officials indicated yesterday that ministers may agree instead to an exemption of seven or even five years in order to save the directive.

"There is still two and a half weeks to go before the meeting next month," one official said. "Padraig Flynn [the EU Social Affairs Commissioner] made



Jowell: faces questions from committee of MPs

clear that he would not agree to a total exemption. But we hope to reach a common position on December 4."

Health officials have been talking to their European counterparts over the past few weeks in an attempt to reach agreement. But they point out that the directive is still being blocked by a minority of countries including Germany, Greece, Denmark, the Netherlands and Austria, which have different negotiating positions.

If agreement is reached in December the EU directive

would not come into effect until October 2001. Sports would then be given a further two years to replace their tobacco sponsors.

It is widely expected that the Labour dominated Commons European legislation committee will press for a Commons debate on tobacco sponsorship before the council of health ministers meeting on December 4.

The 16-member committee will Ms Jowell tomorrow over three key issues: whether a tobacco advertising ban goes against the objectives of a single market; what the full text of the directive is; and how the Government justifies its argument that 50,000 jobs are at risk.

Mr Jowell technically needs clearance from the committee before she can officially agree a deal over the EU directive on tobacco advertising next month. The committee has a duty to examine all draft laws from Brussels on behalf of Parliament. If they are unsatisfied with Ms Jowell's reason for the Formula One exemption, they can refuse to give the Minister clearance to sign up to the directive. The committee can then demand a full debate in the House or in committee before any deal is done.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospitals cut back as debts mount up

More than half the 120 health authorities in Britain expect to enter the financial year in debt, despite the extra £300 million the Government found for them last month, according to a survey by the NHS Confederation.

In order to try to make ends meet, 75 per cent of the overspending authorities are planning to cut services and 18 per cent are being forced to close hospital wards or units. In 46 per cent of hospitals, waiting times for non-emergency operations have been extended to the maximum 18 months.

Treasury post

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has appointed John Major's former press secretary to a Treasury post. Gus O'Donnell is to be director of the Treasury's macroeconomic policy and prospects directorate. He replaces Sir Alan Budd, who has retired.

Fees campaign

The Government is spending more than £400,000 on a publicity campaign to end confusion over the introduction of £1,000 university tuition fees. Students and parents will be advised to call a telephone advice line or apply for an information leaflet.

Hospital pays

Carolann Paul, from Aberdeen, whose daughter Michelle, 15, died of liver failure after taking Ecstasy two years ago, won an out of court settlement from Aberdeen Hospital NHS Trust which treated Michelle. It did not accept liability for her death.

Quick brief

Clients will be able to brief barristers without first paying for a solicitor under a pilot scheme launched today. The Bar Council's 12-month project involves seven advice bureaux, including Shelter, the housing charity, and 18 sets of chambers.

£6m for estate

An estate in the Cairngorms foothills has been sold for an estimated £6 million to a Danish company. Danstrup Lund Holdings was confirmed as the buyer of the 42,000-acre Glenfeshie estate, where Landseer painted *Monarch of the Glen*.

Heart pioneer

Billy Daine, 59, has left Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire 48 hours after becoming the first patient outside America to be given an operation where a tiny laser gun, inserted by a catheter, blasts the heart with beams to assist blood flow.

Data charge

Simon Regan, publisher of the satirical magazine *Scallywag*, has appeared before magistrates in London charged with illegal possession of computer files containing personal information belonging to Michael Portillo, the former Defence Secretary.

Go-to-jail card

The first prisoners arrived at Parc prison near Bridgend, South Wales, where each inmate is to be issued with a swipe card holding personal details. Computers control security. If the system and its back-ups all crash, then keys will be used.

Cracking ideas for Christmas

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"Inventive and hilarious... there are wonderful moments when Baddiel achieves a comedy shadowed and complicated by tenderness." — Margaret Walters, *Sunday Times*.

"Celebrity novels are the bane of modern publishing, but David Baddiel's book is an exception to the rule... this is a hilarious, scathing critique of male inadequacies." — Max Davidson, *Daily Telegraph*.

OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK

Peacekeeper

Iron shot in the sake of a

careful fiance thr

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospitals cut back as debts mount up

More than 100 hospitals are facing cuts in services as the government's efforts to reduce the public sector's borrowing mount up.

Treasury post

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Gordon Brown, has announced that the government will be cutting back on the number of civil servants in the Treasury.

Fees campaign

A campaign to force the government to pay fees for the use of the public sector has been launched by a group of MPs.

Hospital pay

Doctors and nurses in the NHS are to be paid less than in the private sector, according to a report by the Health Service Research Unit.

Quick brief

Clare, 32, has been named as the woman who was killed in the car crash in Suffolk. She was 32 years old and was married.

£6m for estate

An estate worth £6 million has been left to a charity by a man who died last year. The charity is the National Trust.

Heart pioneer

A man who has pioneered the use of a heart pump in the NHS has been awarded a knighthood. He is Sir John Peel.

Data charge

A charge of £100 has been introduced for the use of a data base by a company. The charge is for the use of the company's data base.

Go-to-jail card

A card which allows a person to go to jail without a court order has been introduced. The card is called a 'go-to-jail card'.

Peacekeeper 'came home to kill'

A squadron leader is accused of murdering his wife then faking a car crash because he had fallen for his interpreter in Bosnia. Michael Horsnell reports

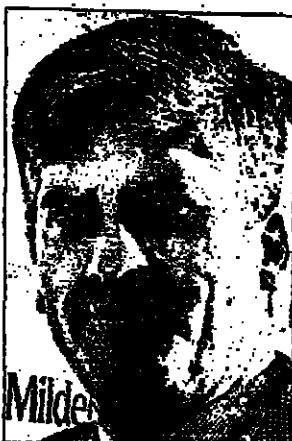
IT LOOKED like an horrific car accident when a squadron leader's wife died during an evening out with her husband after he had returned from peacekeeping duties in Bosnia. Carol Tucker, 52, was found face down in a river. Her husband lay near by with a minor wound on his forehead.

But the accident near their home at Honington, Suffolk, was faked, a court was told yesterday. Nicholas Tucker had first strangled his wife then left her in the water, because he had been having an affair with a blonde interpreter half his age during his service in the war zone.

Unknown to his family, he had made a secret trip to London during his Bosnian service, bringing his young mistress for a stay at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly, the jury was told.

David Stokes, QC, for the prosecution, told Norwich Crown Court that, even when Mr Tucker, 46, was on bail accused of murder, he had booked an air ticket for Dijana Dudokovic, 21, to fly from Belgrade to Zurich. Mr Stokes said: "The Crown's case is he murdered his wife as he was infatuated by a much younger woman with whom he had been carrying on an illicit affair. So intense was it, it affected the operational effectiveness of his team."

Squadron Leader Tucker denies murder. He has a daughter, Vanessa, 19, and son James, 15, and was assigned to Bosnia as a UN



Bertrand du Pasquier said to have seen letters

military observer in January 1995 on a six-month tour of duty which he sought to have extended. There was no fighting where he was stationed in the northern sector of the war zone, with a Royal Marine officer and two interpreters, including Miss Dudokovic.

Mr Stokes said that, on June 15, 1995, Miss Dudokovic was granted a visa to visit Britain. A letter written by Squadron Leader Tucker on a United Nations Protection Force notepad supported her application, guaranteeing that he would accept responsibility for her and that she would stay at his home.

But after flying from Belgrade to Heathrow, she stayed with him at the RAF Club where the couple were spotted by a colleague, Flight Lieutenant Geraldine Morris, who told the court that the Squad-

ron Leader Tucker did not respond to her smile: "He was with a woman in her 20s, five feet eight or five feet nine, very slim, very attractive with long, blonde curly hair."

He returned to Bosnia and then came home again. During that time, he had been to see a doctor and complained of "genital discomfort". He said that he had last had sex two weeks earlier with his Serbian girlfriend. Prior to that, he had not had sex for two years.

Mr Stokes said: "During that time he made a number of telephone calls to Bertrand du Pasquier in Geneva, who was accommodating Miss Dudokovic at his address, and he saw letters proclaiming love from this defendant for this girl. It may be his feelings were not reciprocated and she may have been using him. That is the way of the world."

On July 21, 1995, the day his wife was to die, the squadron leader had allegedly made a 36-minute telephone call to his mistress after Mrs Tucker had left for work at a garage. That evening, he took his wife to the Red Lion at Icklingham — "a curious choice," said Mr Stokes, because Mrs Tucker was not impressed by the establishment.

The couple allegedly left the pub at 10pm, though it could have been earlier, and there was a gap between their departure and the discovery of their Ford Fiesta in the River Lark by the A10.

Squadron Leader Tucker was later to tell police that he swerved to avoid deer on the road. "The prosecution case is that the defendant deliberately drove his car into the river," said Mr Stokes.

According to the squadron leader, he swerved at 50 miles an hour, but an accident investigating officer estimated the speed at 10 miles an hour. A cyclist saw the car at about 10.40pm and alerted police. Minutes later, he and a motorist heard a groaning sound, and found the husband lying outside the car with his head just above the water. When they pulled him clear he was shouting "Carol, Carol". His wife's body was found submerged under the bridge.



Nicholas Tucker: the court heard he did not return the smile of a female comrade when she saw him with blonde

Later, at West Suffolk Hospital, the court was told, a police officer heard Squadron Leader Tucker crying out: "If only I hadn't told her to jump."

Mr Stokes told the jury that the defendant could not explain how his blood was on the passenger side door and by the rear passenger window. David Harrison, a Home

Office pathologist, found bruising on the dead woman's chest consistent with finger pressure, grip marks, abrasions and pinpoint haemorrhages in the eyes consistent with asphyxia. Mr Stokes said: "She was put into the river by her husband, but before he did so he applied pressure to her neck. Whether

that rendered her unconscious cannot be ascertained."

Squadron Leader Tucker was arrested on August 18 — six days after he had drawn 1,000 German Marks in cash from a bank, and after he had contacted both the Immigration Advisory Service and the Refugee Legal Centre on an asylum matter. Released on

bail, he made inquiries on December 18, 1995, at a travel agency where, using the false name of Jack Drayer, he was said to have bought a £421 return air ticket for Miss Dudokovic to fly from Belgrade to Zurich.

The case continues today when the jury will visit the scene of the crash.

Banks in row over Jamaica match at Wembley

By John Goodbody and Matt Dickinson

TONY BANKS, the Minister for Sport, was at the centre of another political dispute yesterday when it was claimed that he had promised to arrange a friendly match at Wembley next spring between England and Jamaica, who qualified for the World Cup finals for the first time on Sunday.

The Football Association said yesterday that England would not be playing Jamaica, whose team are known as the Reggae Boys, before the finals in France. However, the FA said it would "certainly bear them in mind" as opponents over the following two years.

Jamaican officials said that Mr Banks had promised the fixture when he was in Trinidad with the FA last month, attempting to get backing for England's attempt to stage the 2006 World Cup.

A spokeswoman for England's campaign denied that the decision had damaged the bid. She said: "It has not harmed it, but this was not an issue in any case."

As Jamaica's 2.5 million inhabitants celebrated a public holiday yesterday to mark the team's triumph, Rene Simoes, the coach, said: "A member of our federation met the English delegation in Trinidad. They discussed the possibility of a friendly at Wembley in the spring, provided we had qualified for the World Cup."

"Obviously we would love to play at Wembley and maybe, with many Jamaicans in England, they can apply some pressure on the FA. We shall just have to wait and see. We are coming to Europe for the World Cup draw next month and we have many offers of games to discuss."

A spokesman for the minister said: "Mr Banks did not say that he could make it happen, but that he could pass on details to the FA. It is obviously not in the minister's power to arrange England games. It's in the hands of the FA, and it has a lot of requests from teams wanting to play England."

World Cup, pages 52, 56

Briton shot in Bahamas for sake of a gold chain

Robbers killed tourist as he left island restaurant, reports Emma Wilkins

A BRITISH businessman was shot dead in front of his wife during a street robbery while on holiday in the Bahamas.

Jonathan Porton, 41, was killed by robbers who took only a small gold chain, according to his wife, Shelley. Mr Porton, his wife and another couple were attacked by two armed, masked robbers as they left the Stone Crab restaurant in Freeport, Grand Bahamas on Thursday. He was shot in the heart at close range as he tried to protect the other couple.

Mr Portman, whose family owned businesses in the North

East of England, was born in Leeds and went to Thornhill School in Sunderland. His body was flown to Leeds yesterday.

The Portons, who emigrated to Portugal 11 years ago, had two children, Hayley, 15 and Daniel, 12. Mrs Porton flew to Britain at the weekend with her children after the murder.

The children were staying on Grand Bahama with their parents and Mr Porton's mother, Josephine, but did not see the shooting.

Mrs Porton said: "We were getting into the car when two men in balaclavas told us to

hand over our money and valuables. It was horrific. Jonathan went to help one of our friends who was struggling with the robbers. He pushed him back and shot him in the heart. They then tried to force us back into the car and drive off with us inside. But instead they ran off. All they took was a gold chain."

"My children are devastated and I have no idea what we are going to do. I have lost one of the most precious things to me, for a small gold chain. It seems so senseless and cruel."

Mr Porton was a well-

known businessman in the North East, where his family owned Lerman's, a toy company. When his uncle, Leonard Lerman, retired in 1986, Mr Porton left Britain for Val de Loba, Portugal.

A former Durham county squash player, Mr Portman opened a squash club in the Algarve and developed a chain of eight restaurants called Julia's Beach.

Jonathan Jackson, 45, Mr Portman's cousin, said: "He was a lovely man, larger than life, and had so many friends. I don't know how his family will cope, it's tragic."

John Rolles, Commissioner of Police in Freeport, said he wanted to reassure visitors that attacks on tourists were extremely rare. "It was an isolated and random incident. The Bahamas is a peaceful and beautiful place. Like any other city we have our problems but we look after tourists. They are welcome here."

The victim was not targeted as a tourist. There were other people in the restaurant — natives and tourists — it just so happened that the robbers were there when these people came out," he said.

The Foreign Office said there was no particular travel advice for British holidaymakers visiting the Bahamas because the islands had no history of violence towards tourists.



Jonathan and Shelley Porton were attacked by robbers as they left a restaurant

Tearful fiancé threw ring in sea

By Simon de Bruxelles

A DISGRUNTLED bachelor whose fiancée forgot his birthday appeared in court yesterday after he took her £2,000 diamond engagement ring and threw it into the sea.

Simon Bills-Holland, 32, was charged with theft. But a judge took pity on him after hearing that he was still paying for the 18-carat gold ring. The court heard that Bills-Holland, an engineer, became upset when Rita Seamark forgot his birthday.

Nicola Harris, for the prosecution,

said: "He visited Miss Seamark on his birthday and had plans for the day. It was apparent that she had forgotten his special day and he became upset. He took the engagement ring from her jewellery box and left Miss Seamark believing he seemed to be sad. She later discovered the ring was missing."

Cardiff Crown Court was told that Bills-Holland drove to a cliff top at Lavernock, South Glamorgan, where he broke down in tears. He threw the ring, encrusted with 14 diamonds, into the Bristol Channel. Miss Seamark, 33, called the police, saying the ring

had been stolen, and Bills-Holland was arrested. He confessed to taking it, saying he was desperately upset about his forgotten birthday. Police divers searched for it, but to no avail.

Bills-Holland, of Barry, South Glamorgan, admitted theft. He was given a conditional discharge by Judge Michael Gibbon and ordered to pay £30 costs. The court heard that the couple had broken off their engagement.

After the hearing, Bills-Holland said: "I've had enough of the female of the species for now. This has taught me a lesson."

Clegg was convicted over wrong bullet, appeal told

Protesters removed from hearing as paratrooper makes his third appeal over girl he shot dead in stolen car, reports Martin Fletcher

LEE CLEGG, the paratrooper convicted of murdering a teenage joyrider in Belfast, was found guilty on the evidence of the wrong bullet, it was claimed yesterday.

As the High Court in Belfast began hearing a third attempt to clear his name, his lawyers said that he had been sentenced after a ruling that the bullet which killed 18-year-old Karen Reilly had been fired into the back of the car and was therefore an excessive use of force.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, said that tests had since shown that the bullet would have fragmented before reaching Miss Reilly in the back seat, so that fatal shot must have been one of three which Clegg fired into the side of the car in legitimate self-defence.

The first day of what is

expected to be a week-long hearing was briefly disrupted by republican demonstrators who stood and shouted slogans such as "Free republican prisoners", "Double standards" and "No justice, no peace", before being forcibly removed from the public gallery.

Clegg, a member of the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, was part of an patrol that opened fire on a stolen Vauxhall Astra as it accelerated through a West Belfast checkpoint in September 1990. Miss Reilly and the 17-year-old driver, Martin Peake, both died.

It was later established that she was killed by one of four bullets fired by Clegg.

He was charged with murder and tried without a jury. A judge sentenced him to life



Karen Reilly: parents in court

imprisonment in 1993. Clegg was released on licence to resume his army career in 1995, following a huge public campaign in Britain which triggered riots in nationalist areas.

The Court of Appeal and House of Lords dismissed his first two attempts to have his conviction overturned, but earlier this year Sir Patrick Mayhew, then Northern Ireland Secretary, granted him leave to appeal a third time.

Clegg, now 29 and an army PT instructor at Catterick, North Yorkshire, was not in court yesterday. However his parents were present, as were Miss Reilly's parents.

Mr Scrivener said that Clegg had been convicted "on the basis of opinions without any expert ever having conducted a single test". Neither the prosecution nor the defence had tested the opinion of a forensic expert.

For the appeal, he said, the defence had since "instructed a forensic expert to carry out a series of tests, firing bullets at an identical Astra car to see what results were achieved". The basis of the conviction was that the fatal bullet had gone through the back of the car.

A bullet did go through the back, but that bullet would have fragmented and could not have killed Karen Reilly. The fatal bullet went sideways through the rear passenger door, Mr Scrivener said.

Reginald Weir, the Crown counsel, said: "The whole new theory is so inherently improbable that it just doesn't stack up with other evidence." The hearing continues.



Lee Clegg: jailed for life but freed on licence after public campaign

PC guilty of kicking student 20 times

By STEWART TENDLER

A POLICEMAN who kicked a student 20 times after a disturbance at a pub was convicted at the Old Bailey yesterday of assault and affray.

PC Paul Evans, 32, was found guilty of assaulting Ben Swarbrick in May 1994 when officers from Stoke Newington police station in North London, were called out to an incident at the Putlog pub.

Mr Swarbrick told the court that Evans told him to turn away in the station yard and then began to kick him. He told the officer that he wanted to see his face and said that Evans had replied: "You'll remember my face until the day you die, and that is going to be very soon."

Evans, who has been a policeman for ten years, assured the court that he was a "tolerant, liberal-minded person". He will be sentenced today.

Six other officers, acquitted of various charges including conspiring to pervert the course of justice, have been suspended.

Minister says smoking costs NHS £1.7bn

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

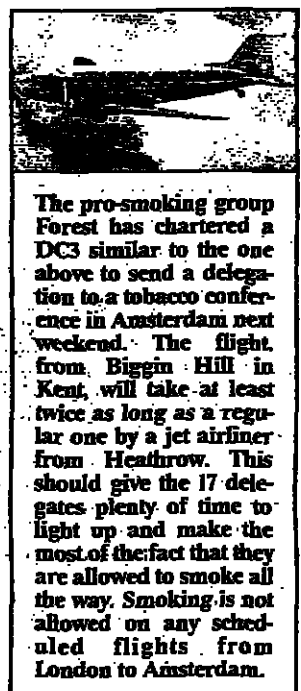
SMOKING costs the health service up to £1.7 billion a year, Tessa Jowell said yesterday. The Public Health Minister, who this month announced the decision to allow continuing tobacco sponsorship of Formula One racing, said the figures underlined the case for early European Union legislation to end advertising by the industry.

"Costs of between £1.4 billion and £1.7 billion a year are an appalling drain on the NHS, and an enormous human cost to smokers and their families," she said. The new calculation of smoking costs by the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York, contrasts with earlier Government estimates of £610 million a year.

Smokers in Britain spend £12 billion a year buying tobacco products, and the Government receives £10.25 billion of this in duty, up from £9.82 billion last year. A further £560 million is collected in corporation tax, business rates, income tax on wages of the 148,000 staff and VAT. The tobacco industry also has a £93 million positive balance of trade, making it one of the top export earners.

The Department of Health said: "The allocation of resources is a Treasury matter. All we can say is what smoking costs the NHS and draw attention to the amount of human suffering it entails."

The new study estimates that an average health authority will expect to spend about £14 million a year treating smokers, including £2.5 million on GP visits and £1.5 million on prescriptions.



These figures show why we need tough action at both a domestic and European level to bring down rates of smoking, especially among the young, she said. A Government White Paper, produced next year, will spell out a comprehensive range of measures. She said give-up-smoking competitions, counselling and nicotine replacement therapy would form part of the Government's strategy. She claimed that smoking and passive smoking could lead to heart and lung problems not just for adults but for children and babies, who had a 72 per cent increased risk of respiratory disease if their mother smoked.

Cash freeze puts RSC into red

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

THE Prince of Wales blamed freezes on government funding to the arts yesterday for reducing the Royal Shakespeare Company to a state of "perpetual crisis management" and plunging it into debt for the first time in four years.

Chairing the annual general meeting of the RSC, of which he is president, at its base in Stratford-upon-Avon, the Prince sympathised with the "day-to-day frustrations and difficulties" brought on the company by the freezing of Arts Council funding at 1993-94 levels.

He spoke after Sir Geoffrey Case, chairman of the council of the RSC, had given details of the company's annual report. Reduced box office takings, lower attendances at *Les Misérables*, the RSC's cash cow of recent years, and the erosion of government funds as a proportion of total funding, had all contributed to a trading loss of £1.8 million in 1996-97.

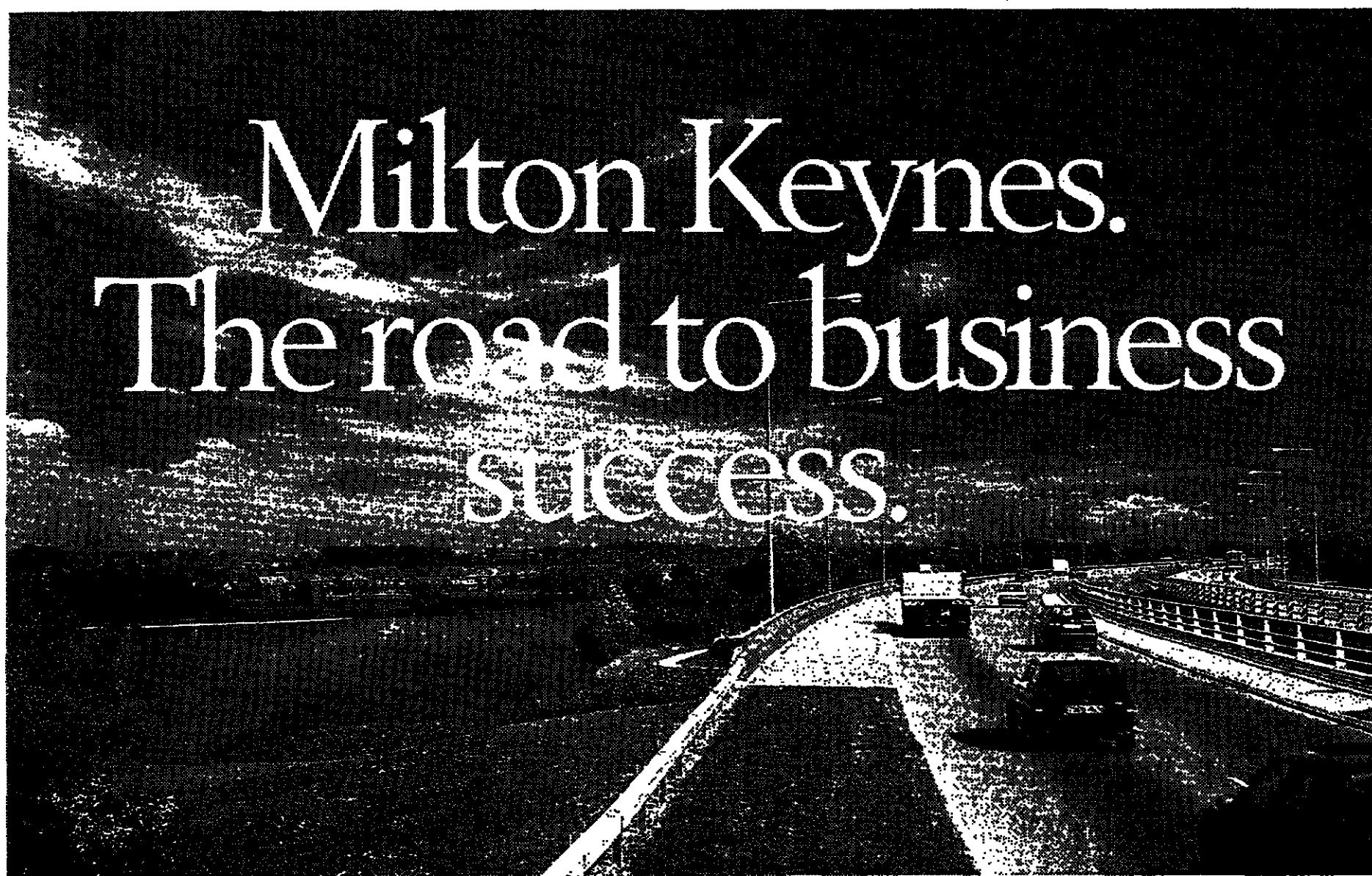
Having begun the year in credit, the RSC now stands £1.6 million in the red. Sir Geoffrey said that the deficit was still manageable but could be completely wiped

out if the Government unfroze their grant. In September the RSC submitted a bid for Lottery money to fund a feasibility study into a £75 million redevelopment of the RSC Stratford headquarters. Should that go ahead, it would be one of the biggest arts capital projects outside London.

The company, however, is pessimistic about having its Arts Council grant unfrozen when it comes up for review at the beginning of December. A spokesman for the company said that "all the signals we are getting are that the Treasury is not keen on increasing art subsidies".

The RSC is nonetheless continuing an aggressive programme of touring in Britain and internationally. Next spring the company will transfer for three weeks to the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York and for four weeks to the Kennedy Centre in Washington DC.

The tour will be funded by American "promoters" who will underwrite any losses should they arise. It is hoped that the tour will encourage more American tourists in Britain to visit the RSC.



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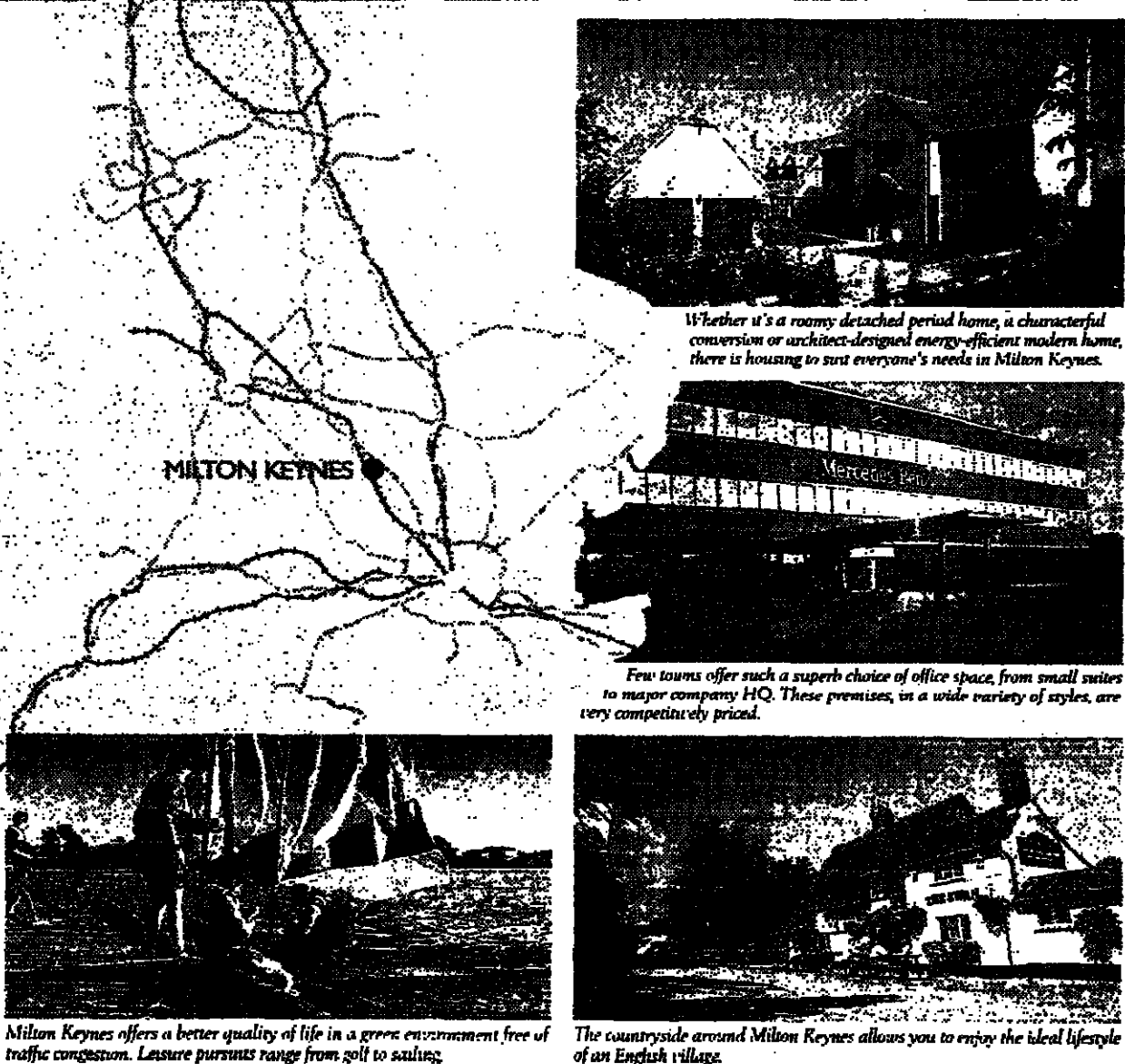
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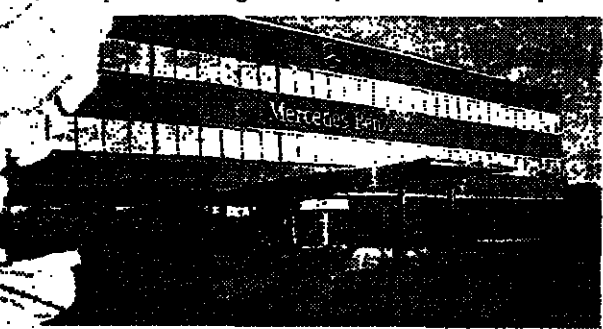
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BA flies into Europe with no-frills service

BRITISH Airways is to take on the cut-price, no-frills rivals by reducing fares below £100 on some of the most competitive routes in Europe.

The move brings one of the world's biggest players into a market that has been dominated by small companies offering fares as low as £19 on some domestic routes. BA is drawing up plans to introduce a service, independent of its main global operation, to some of the most popular destinations in Europe.

The highly competitive "no frills" sector, which offers no in-flight food or entertainment, has seen the number of passengers increase by more than 30 per cent on some routes over the past two years.

The new service, operating from Stansted airport in Essex, will fly to Italy, Spain, Scandinavia, France and Germany, although specific cities have not yet been announced. Cut-price routes including Nice, Amsterdam and Barcelona have frequently been pegged below £100 by

Small operators feel threatened by the global giant's plans to expand

into the cut-price market. Report by

Arthur Leathley and Steve Keenan

operators who have pared back costs on airport charges, commissions and administrative staff.

Although new prices have yet to be announced for the service beginning early next year, senior BA officials made clear that they would not be trying to undercut the lowest fares currently on offer, but would provide a better quality service than the competition.

However, the announcement by BA yesterday immediately sparked complaints that the national carrier would be able to use profits from its core operations to put competitors out of business. Ryanair, the leading cut-price airline, issued a warning that

the cheap-fare operators would not be driven out. "We will undercut any fare you offer," said a director.

Under the project name Operation Blue Sky, the new company, which has not yet been named, will operate as a separate business to BA, with its own name, management and ISO staff.

It will be headed by Barbara Cassani, who was formerly BA's general manager in the United States and who predicted yesterday that she would transform the low-cost airline business. "We will be the best of the airline business. What I like to do is make cheap furniture tasteful, we will do to the low-fare market.

There will be more style to this market than has been seen before."

BA said that, unlike other British-based low-cost carriers, the new airline will recognise unions. Agreement has already been reached with the British Air Line Pilots Association (Balpa) and talks are being held with other unions, it added.

Richard Branson, the head of Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Express, which operates out of Bristol, said that the announcement was typical of the approach to business by BA, which "hated" competition.

"Their plans clearly threaten carriers such as EasyJet, Debonair and Ryanair, who are already flying, or planning to fly, most of these routes from their existing London bases. We would certainly support these carriers in any moves they may make to cry foul to the European Commission."

Blue skies, page 33



Barbara Cassani aims to end the low-fare industry's "cheap and nasty" image

Mother of intention heads to the top

THE head of BA's low fares service is American-born Barbara Cassani, who has already headed the airline's attempts to make inroads into the highly competitive US market.

Mrs Cassani, 37, a mother of two, is a highly rated executive of whom one senior colleague said yesterday: "She's ready to take on anyone -- and she usually wins."

She insisted yesterday that she would rid the low-fare airline industry of its "cheap and nasty" image. "Just because it is good value doesn't mean it needs to be a poor service," she said. "We will not be showering passengers with caviar and champagne but we can give them a better service than they are getting on low-fare routes."

Mrs Cassani has been a senior manager with BA for the past decade, with jobs ranging from sales and marketing to general manager at Gatwick airport. She was general manager of its American operations until May.

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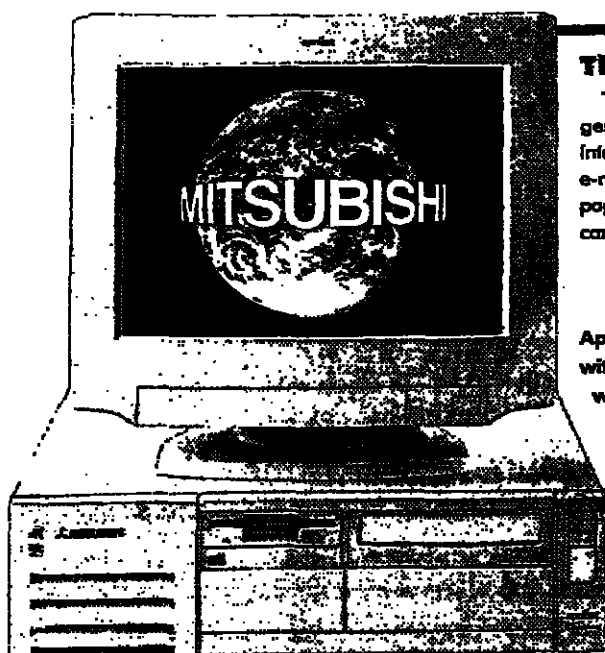
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Fine wine bill is cheap at half the price

By ROBIN YOUNG

THREE businessmen who spent £13,091 on dinner, most of it on fine wines, could have saved themselves more than half the bill if they had eaten in Sussex instead of Mayfair.

The bill, recognised as a British record by envious competitors yesterday, was incurred at Le Gavroche, the Roux brothers' restaurant. Only £220 of the amount went on food.

The party, three businessmen who were celebrating one of their number's 50th birthday, started with a bottle of Krug 1949, a rare champagne priced at £560. "I have nothing of this age in champagne," admitted Harry Phillips of the White Horse Inn at Chilgrove in West Sussex yesterday, "but for almost everything else they drank I could have offered them substantial savings."

The trio continued with a bottle of 1985 Le Montrachet from the Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, the top white burgundy. They paid £1,400. "I just sold a bottle for £475," said Mr Phillips, whose 18th-century inn has one of the country's finest wine lists. The saving the businessmen missed: £925.

Their next choice was 1985 Romanée-Conti, the top grand cru red burgundy again from the DRC. They paid £4,950. "On my list it is £1,750," said Mr Phillips. Saving: £3,200.

After one glass each the diners decided the wine was a bit young and offered the rest to the staff, replacing it with Château Latour 1961. To them: £2,100. At the White Horse it would have been only £995. Another £1,105 missed.

Next they chose another great claret, the Graves premier cru, Château Haut Brion 1945. Price: £1,950. "Really great wine," enthused Mr Phillips. "I would have let them have it for £850." A further saving of £1,100.

To accompany dessert, the wine waiter at Le Gavroche suggested the top-flight Sauternes, Château d'Yquem 1967, at £1,070 a bottle. "Good choice," approved Mr Phillips, "but I would only have charged £550." Another potential economy of £520.

The trio finished off with Mount Cisterne, cigars of £47.50 each and three clafoutis wine glasses of 1990 armagnac brandy at £200 each.

Bulgaria in Crisis

Appeal to Times Readers

LEFT TO FREEZE

Yordan, 18, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.



No Money To Feed The Children No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need. Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

• £28 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW

I enclose £ to save Bulgarian orphanage children. Cheques to The European Children's Trust. Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card

Card no _____ Expiry date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone no. _____

Return to: Thays Barron, (T), Bulgaria Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KX3339, 64 Queen Street, LONDON, EC4B 4AR or call 01273 299399 NOW. Registered Charity No. 1048737

Please act NOW - winter is coming

مركز الأمل

Mother of intention heads to the top

[illegible]

wine bill
leap at
he price

Their new church was Roman Catholic, the original era red burned again from the DRC and paid \$1,950 "On my list," said Mr. Pitt. Savings \$1,200.

After one glass each, they decided the wine for the young and offered this to the staff replacing the Chateau Tannu 1961 about \$2,100 at the W. H. Harve if would have only \$1,000. Another \$

Next they chose an open cellar, the G. and the era Chateau 1965. Price \$1,000. "I would have great wine," embossed perhaps. "I would have been 1 or 2 years further west of \$1,100."

To accompany devoted wine waiter at 16 franc suggested the top-flight bottle Chateau d'Yquem 1967, at \$1,170 a bottle. "I would have chosen," approved Mr. Pitt, but I would only charged \$440. Another bottle of 1967, at \$1,100.

The firm finished at Minute Cordon A. 1967 \$17.50 each and three miniature glasses of champagne in and at \$20.

in Crisis



Save The Children Plant The Orphanage

[illegible][illegible]

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Coastguards fear station closures will risk lives

By DANIEL MCGRORY AND RUSSELL JENKINS

COASTGUARDS were in open revolt last night after the service unveiled plans to shut down four coastal stations. They said that closing Liverpool, Tyne, Oban in Argyll and Bute, and Pentland in Orkney would put lives at risk.

However John Astbury, the chief coastguard, said: "They are talking rubbish about us jeopardising lives. We are not doing this to save money but to make us more efficient. We stake our reputations on that".

Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister, who announced the loss of 78 jobs, came under attack from union leaders who said it was ironic that her grandfather had been a lifeboatman in Hoylake on the Wirral. Brian May, of the Public Service, Tax and Commerce Union at the Liverpool station, also condemned John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who he remembered



Jackson: promised no reduction in cover

joining an earlier protest against cuts outside the Commons brandishing a poster proclaiming: "Don't sink the coastguards". He argued that closures could mean increased stress for staff

and predicted there would be more errors "likely to lead to loss of life".

As well as the four closures, the stations at Lee-on-the-Solent and Portland will be moved into the same headquarters and staff will be expected to help each other out during emergencies. Union leaders predicted industrial action among coastguards to resist the cuts which they described as "appalling" and "another government U-turn".

The service insists that improved digital technology in radio communication means it can safely cover 10,500 miles of coastline using only 17 stations. It hopes to pay for the technological innovation with the savings made by closing the four stations.

Mr Astbury said staff would be consulted about the plan but added that the four stations would definitely close, "no matter what". "At the end

of the five years it will take to implement this plan, there will be more coastguards in uniform than we had last year."

Oban and Pentland will close in the next two years, their duties being taken over by Stornoway and Clyde and Shetland and Aberdeen respectively. Liverpool and Tyne will close a year later and be covered in future from Holyhead and Bridlington.

Miss Jackson said: "There will be no reduction in coast-

guard cover for dealing with emergencies. In the UK, I believe we have the best search and rescue service in the world and that's how I intend to continue."

John Cherrett, the coastguard representative of the public service union, said: "We are talking about peoples' lives at risk and I find this utterly appalling. We have to fight a campaign to make the Government see the stupidity of their ways and ensure the

country has a proper, funded and staffed service."

He said the introduction of digital communications was not the answer. "People out for walks along the coast, the casual sea user, people on their little yachts at the weekend do not have VHF radios, they use mobile phones and there will be no-one there to answer them."

The Liverpool station, at Blundellsands, covers one of the world's busiest industrial

shipping. Outside the operations room window, tankers pass within yards of each other on choppy grey seas. Inside, officers deal efficiently with the 642nd emergency this year, a windsurfer reported missing in the Dee estuary.

Emergencies range from major oil spills to stranded ferries, but an increasing number concern ordinary people messing about in boats whose first call in an emergency is the coastguard. From

Blundellsands, the coast-

guards monitor distress calls over 700 miles of coastline. Mr May said the decision to axe the station was "totally illogical" at a time when maritime traffic was rising sharply. It was a regular occurrence for the watch manager to have to cope with three or four emergencies at a time. The stress was "phenomenal" in a job where local knowledge was crucial to dealing swiftly to an emergency.



Christine Matthews, a watch assistant working at the Liverpool coastguard station at Blundellsands, one of four earmarked for closure

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Theatre grants cut as lottery cash reduced

By MARK HENDERSON

THEATRES, galleries and concert halls seeking National Lottery funding for capital projects are to have their awards limited to a maximum of £15 million under a new spending strategy announced by the Arts Council of England yesterday.

Projects will be allowed to exceed £15 million only if they are deemed to be of exceptional national or international significance, and just £200 million is to be made available to cover such awards over the next eight years. Funding for smaller projects will also be restricted to £2 million.

In its first 2½ years, the Arts Council's National Lottery Panel made 11 awards of more than £15 million, totalling £325.5 million. The largest award was £78.5 million made to the Royal Opera House.

The change could spell trouble for the application by the South Bank Centre in London

for funds towards a £150 million refit. The centre is seeking £113 million but a new, lower, submission will be considered next week.

The council said that because of the extra "good cause", the council's cut of the lottery cake was down from 17 per cent to below 14 per cent. Jeremy Newton, the council's lottery director, said: "We have to look carefully at the best way to allocate money."

The council had also diverted a third of its resources from the fund to help with the running costs of individual arts organisations as well as capital spending, he said. There will be big cuts in funding for smaller projects, with spending sinking from the current £325 million a year to £125 million a year.

Owners of some of the country's finest historic houses are seeking £130 million of government funding for repairs. The Historic Houses Association, which represents 1,400 owners, will make the appeal at its annual general meeting, today, arguing that the houses and their grounds are central to the tourism industry.

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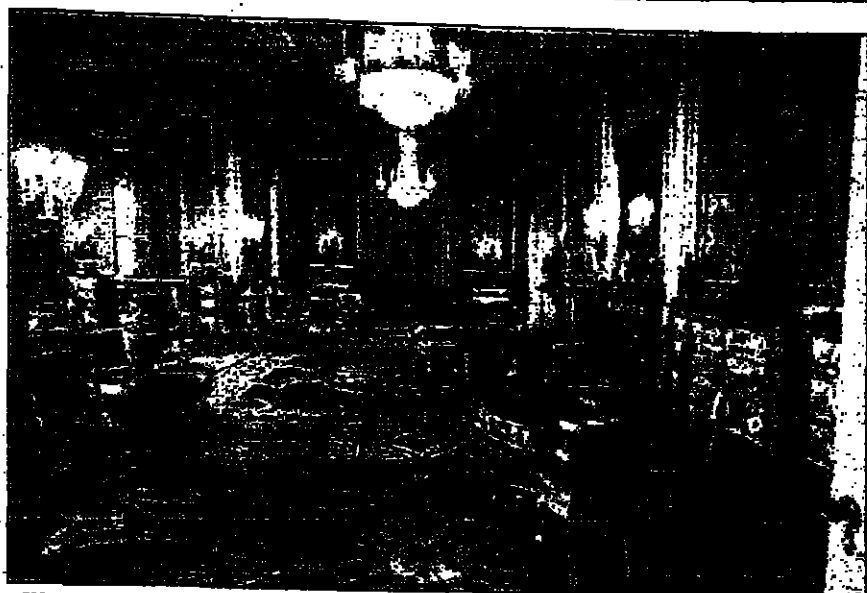
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The Green Room, damaged by fire and water from hoses, now fully restored

Duke adds the royal touch to restored castle

The work is under budget, the quality is first-rate and the customer is happy, writes Alan Hamilton

A STAINED-GLASS window inspired by the Duke of Edinburgh and a memorial plaque identifying where the blaze started are the only obvious clues to visitors that, on the Queen's wedding anniversary five years ago, a corner of Windsor Castle was consumed by fire.

The largest historic building restoration project in Britain this century was unveiled yesterday by Royal Household officials, who reported that the final bill would be £37 million, well below initial estimates of £60 million.

Work was completed six months ahead of schedule, after a late scramble to return the Queen's favourite residence to her in time for her golden wedding anniversary on Thursday, when she and the Duke will host a private dinner for family, friends and guests. In June, Lionel Mann,



The blaze recorded

the royal chef, and his team were invited to the restored medieval kitchens for a catering dress rehearsal for the dinner-dance, but they

walked out, saying that the site was far too dusty from building work for them to cook a proper meal. They will be back on Thursday, satisfied that cleanliness has been restored.

Nine state apartments were destroyed or severely damaged and a further 100 rooms affected by the fire, which burnt for 15 hours. Some 250 firefighters poured 1.5 million gallons of water on the blaze, equivalent to two seconds' flow over Niagara Falls.

The restored apartments will be reopened to the public on December 27. Visitors to the newly created private chapel will see a stained-glass window born of some rough sketches by the Duke. It includes one panel showing a firefighter with hose in front of a burning castle, and another showing a hard-hatted workman carrying a painting to safety. Only one

painting and one piece of furniture, both too bulky to move, were lost in the fire; the rest of the castle's art treasures were saved by the prompt action of a volunteer salvage crew, including the Duke of York.

The old private chapel, destroyed in the blaze, has been recreated as an anteroom to St George's Hall. On its wall is a plaque identifying the source of the fire, caused by a spotlight igniting a curtain.

Michael Peat, Keeper of the Privy Purse and the man responsible for the Queen's finances, said yesterday that the restoration budget included £10 million to £15 million for a sophisticated fire detection and prevention system. It is, he says, the equal of any in an historic building around the world.

Mr Peat said that the fire, on November 20, 1992, had

broken out barely a year after the Royal Household had taken over responsibility for maintaining the occupied royal palaces from the Government. They had not got around to upgrading the castle's fire alarm system.

He added that, although most of the bills had now been paid, Buckingham Palace would remain open to visitors at least until 2000, when the situation would be reviewed. Tourist takings at the Palace and at Windsor have funded 70 per cent of the restoration, the rest coming from savings in the household's annual grant-in-aid for maintenance from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Any surplus from the Palace box-office would go to help maintain the Royal Collection, which, with half a million paintings, drawings, photographs and objets d'art, is one of the largest private art

collections in the world, and which receives no funding from the taxpayer.

Visitors to Windsor are likely to be impressed by the new hammerbeam roof erected in St George's Hall, the largest apartment in the castle. Designed by the architect Giles Downes, of Sidell Gibson, the roof is the largest piece of Gothic-style carpentry erected in Britain for more than two centuries. Made of green English oak from 70 trees in Hereford and Worcester, it is more than 150ft long, constructed entirely of carpentry joints without glue, bolts or screws, and is decorated with the shields of more than 700 past Knights of the Garter.

"We had to search for the craftsmen, but we eventually found them all in Britain, and they are every bit as good as craftsmen ever were," Mr Downes said yesterday. "The

roof is new and not a replica of what was there before. I have tried to reinterpret Gothic for our own times, but keeping to the principles of geometry, craftsmanship and natural materials."

The whole project employed some 5,000 craftsmen on and off site, and 200 specialist firms, many of them taxed to the limits of their skills.

Apparently, the customer is satisfied. At a party for contractors and craftsmen in St George's Hall on Friday, the Queen made an impromptu speech saying she was "absolutely delighted" with the results.

The Guildhall luncheon and the gala concert at the Festival Hall to celebrate the golden wedding anniversary of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh take place tomorrow, and not today, as reported in yesterday's editions.



Images of a workman salvaging a painting and a fireman were born of sketches by the Duke of Edinburgh

NEWS IN BRIEF

No bail for former spy held over book plans

A former MI6 officer, charged under the Official Secrets Act for planning to write a book about his experiences, has had his bail application refused.

Richard Tomlinson, 34, an intelligence officer with the Secret Intelligence Service until 1995, served in Bosnia and Moscow. He was arrested in October after sending a synopsis of the book to a publisher in Australia. Bow Street magistrates were told. Mr Tomlinson was remanded in custody until November 24.

Barrister jailed

A barrister swindled more than £10,000 in state benefits to pay his monthly £1,350 rent in central London. Graeme Wood, 38, a lecturer, who concealed earnings from three London colleges, was jailed for a year at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

Prison inquiry

A prison officer from Wakefield jail, West Yorkshire, was suspended while police investigate allegations of blackmail. The Home Office said a decision regarding the officer's future would be made when the outcome of the inquiry was made known.

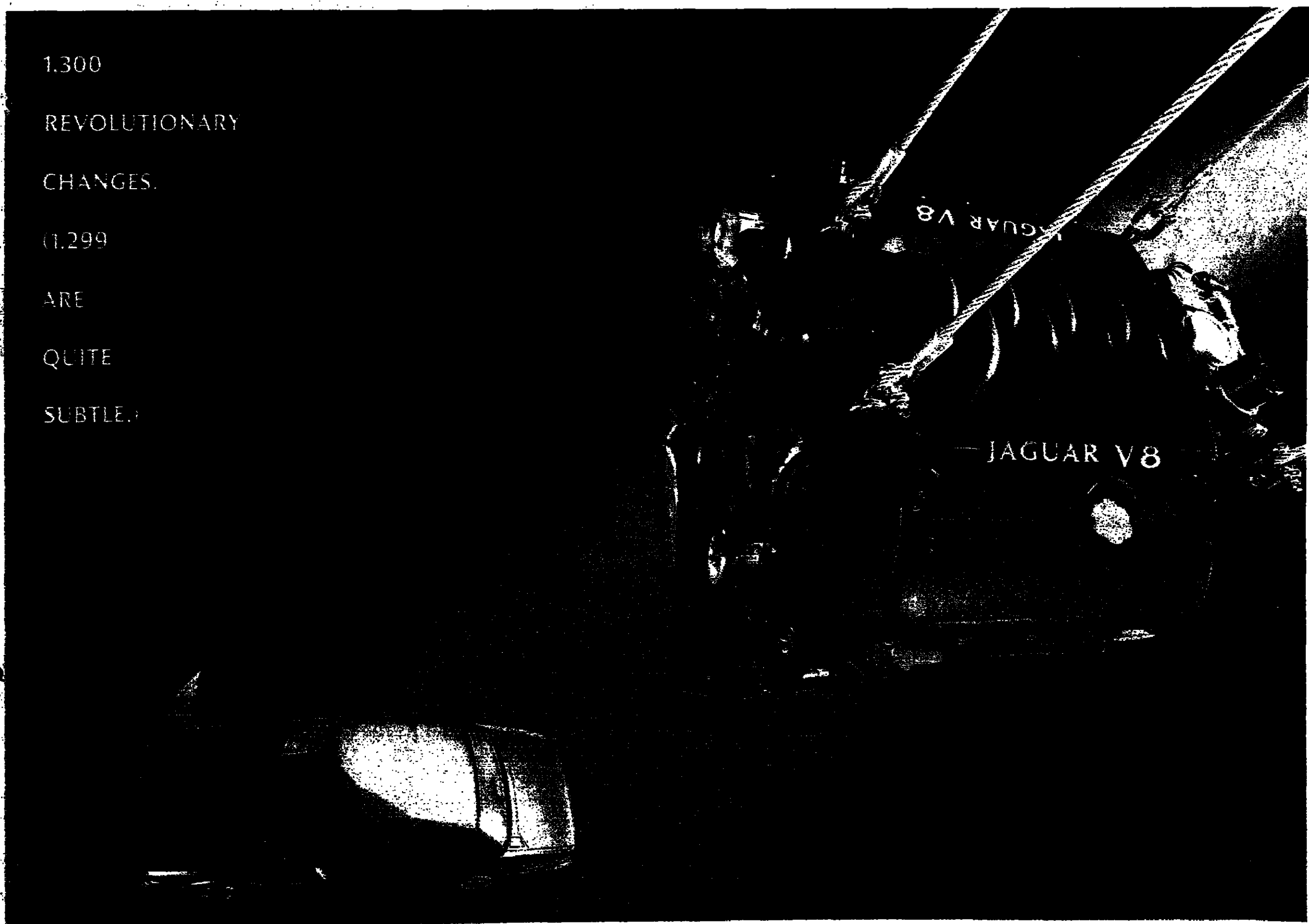
Latex glove risks

Up to one in ten health workers who use latex gloves suffer from occupational asthma or dermatitis, according to the TUC and the National Asthma Campaign. They have launched a joint effort to alert staff to the risks of wearing the gloves.

Webber retunes

Lord Lloyd-Webber's musical *Whistle Down The Wind* will open in London next summer at the Aldwych Theatre, after being reworked from last year's Washington premiere. It was inspired by a 1961 film about children who think a fugitive killer is Jesus.

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Suicide bid video given to the media

By RICHARD FORD

CLOSED-CIRCUIT television footage of a man trying to kill himself was given to the media by his local council, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Millions of viewers saw the incident on BBC's *Crime Beat*, leaving the impression the man had been involved in a criminal act, the court was told. In a test case, Geoffrey Peck, 42, from Brentwood, Essex, is challenging the decision by Brentwood Borough Council to provide copies of the film to local and national television stations.

Richard Gordon, QC, for Mr Peck, said that, when he was picked up on the council's cameras, he was suffering from severe depression and was about to kill himself with a knife. He had lost his job and his partner was terminally ill.

The council is contesting the case and says it behaved legally and "with propriety". The hearing continues.



The mugger threatening Sloan Eagleson, 72, in the August raid and, top, Mr Eagleson yesterday



Hostage's ordeal on bank film

DRAMATIC closed-circuit television film of a pensioner being held hostage during a bank raid was seen by a judge yesterday before he sentenced the robber.

The film showed Sloan Eagleson, 72, with an imitation gun to his neck. "I thought if the bank didn't cough up he was going to blow my head off. It was horrible," he said.

Scott Wilds, 24, from Littlehampton, West Sussex, was jailed for nine years at Chichester Crown Court for stealing £2,500 from Lloyds Bank in Worthing in August.

DNA pioneer in hunt for beast of the moors

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A PIONEER of genetic fingerprinting is to conduct DNA analysis of a possible clue to the Beast of Bodmin Moor. Recent attacks on sheep and an apparent sighting by councillors on a coach trip have renewed the belief that puma-like creatures are at large in the West Country.

The chance of very basic scientific evidence emerged this month in countryside near Torrington, Devon, when a local couple reported seeing a large brownish cat answering the call of nature. They alerted Newquay Zoo, which has passed a sample of droppings to Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys of Leicester University, who in 1984 developed the DNA sampling technique.

Mike Thomas, the zoo's managing director, said: "We are hoping that the DNA test, which could take many weeks, will throw light on the animal and its eating habits. Over the years the zoo has received many calls from people who say they have seen



The paw prints: zoo staff say they are like a puma's but ministry wildlife experts believe it was a dog

big cats. Everyone cannot be mistaken."

Sir Alec said that if the DNA analysis suggested feline origin, the data would be sent to the US National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland. "A colleague has been collating a database of different felines," he said. "If — and I emphasise that — we can obtain enough evidence, they will help to determine what type of cat it is."

Mr Thomas believes he also has new evidence in the shape

between five and six feet long, with a long upward curving tail, and was crouched, drinking."

Five ewes were savaged in the area last week, on a landscaped clay tip owned by English China Clays International. Loren Bracher, a company spokesman, said, "All but one died or had to be put down. They had been deeply bitten in the back of the neck. Our shepherd said it did not look like the work of a dog."

Two years ago the Ministry of Agriculture said there was "no verifiable evidence" of the Beast of Bodmin Moor. The ministry said yesterday: "Our inquiry is still open. However, our experts have seen photographs of the prints near St Austell and think they are more likely to be those of a dog."

In Scotland, five police believe that a fuzzy film taken by a local woman of a large feline creature is the best evidence so far of the existence of the Beast of Cuper. PC George Redpath said: "My personal opinion is that there is a puma in this area."

Sensible eaters are advised to go nuts

By IAN MURRAY

EATING nuts regularly may help you to prolong life, researchers said yesterday. If people ate more of them, death rates from all causes could be cut by almost a quarter, they claimed.

The 11,000 volunteers who took part in the 13-year study included vegetarians, semi-vegetarians and meat eaters. The research showed that the biggest risk factor for death from heart disease was total consumption of animal fat and cholesterol, rather than meat.

There was little evidence of any one food offering protection, with the possible exception of nuts. "Nuts are good sources of vitamin E, other antioxidant nutrients, and linoleic acid," the researchers say in the journal *Heart*.

Vegetarianism was associated with a slight, but not significant, fall in the death rate. Death rates were higher among cheese and egg eaters than among those who ate a lot of meat and milk.

Scientists from Oxford University, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the University of Otago, New Zealand, collaborated on the research.

Sandwich sales soar as lunch declines

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITONS are spending more on sandwiches than they do on pizza, pasta and burgers put together. Outperforming growth in all other fast-food sectors, sandwich sales have grown by 45 per cent over the past five years, according to market researchers Mintel.

It values the sandwich market at £2.2 billion a year, with sales of 1.7 billion sandwiches.

Shorter lunch breaks, the trend towards eating on the move or at work, snacking and growing health concerns are all believed to have contributed to the sandwich's burgeoning popularity.

Of the 1.7 billion eaten every year, four-fifths are filled with chicken, prawn, egg, cheese, ham, tuna, beef or turkey. But exotic fillings, which can be anything from smoked eel wrapped in ham to kangaroo meat with raspberry preserve, have a fifth of the market.

The best sellers are still chicken with about 11 per cent of the market, selling 187 million sandwiches a year, and prawn mayonnaise (10 per cent, 170 million). The ubiquitous BLT (bacon, lettuce and tomato) now ties with egg with mayonnaise or cream (with 9 per cent, 153 million) for third place.

Children follow fat parents' lead

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is becoming caught in a vicious circle of obesity, with an increasing number of fat parents bringing up fat children, a study published today shows.

The study of almost 13,000 men and women born during the same week in 1958 shows that children, with fat parents are significantly more likely to be fat, to become fat adults than to have fat children.

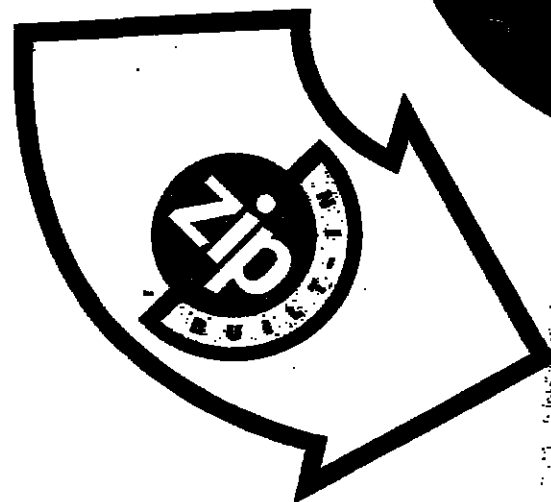
Researchers believe that the key to halting the trend is in identifying the children at risk and helping them to stay slim.

The prevalence of obesity in couples doubled between 1969 and 1991, with both partners

in 6 per cent of couples now seriously overweight. Data from the 1958 group show that the weight of children increases in proportion to the degree of parental fatness. Seven-year-old girls with obese parents are 10 per cent heavier than those with parents of normal weight. By the age of 33 the difference is more than 20 per cent.

The study, reported by Julie Lake of the Institute of Child Health, London, in the *Archives of Disease of Childhood*, concludes that children of fat parents are at increased risk of obesity throughout childhood and early adult life.

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Ministers urged to back campaign against art theft

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A WORLDWIDE illicit trade in antiquities could be significantly reduced if the Government adopted an international convention on such objects, archaeologists said yesterday.

Representatives of the British Museum and other archaeological and heritage organisations have begun a campaign for Britain to ratify the Unidroit Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects. The previous Government is thought to have feared that it would restrict trade in the art market, although countries such as France and Switzerland signed up in 1995.

The 34-strong forum of British organisations that make up the Standing Conference on Portable Antiquities argue that the £100 million international antiquities market encourages the plunder of important sites in countries such as India, Italy and Egypt.

They have given their unanimous backing to a resolution that calls on the Government to adopt the Unidroit Convention and deplores "the loss to knowledge and damage to the cultural heritage" caused by the trade in antiquities. The convention, they say, would ease the return of stolen artefacts to their rightful owners, whether governments, museums or individuals. The resolution was proposed by Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorpe, the Cambridge archaeologist and Master of Jesus College, on behalf of the Council for British Archaeology.

Lord Renfrew will today launch the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research in Cambridge to lobby governments into taking action, campaign against the worldwide looting of historic sites and monitor the scale of the traffic in antiquities.

Lord Renfrew said: "The

real value of these artefacts is destroyed once they are removed from their archaeological context."

Commenting on the resolution, he said: "It's a great step forward that the standing conference representing most archaeology and heritage bodies in Britain have now warmly endorsed the Unidroit Convention. I very much hope the Government, as it has hinted, goes ahead and adopts it."

He said that even though London had become one of the clearing centres for antiquities from countries such as India and China, the previous government had resisted ratifying the convention. "They were worried about the status of Britain as a trading centre for the work of the art market. The art market now realises that if it doesn't clean up its act, it will lose face."

He said that Sotheby's had "at last done something about

it", announcing last July that it was to end antiquities sales in London after allegations that the firm sold artefacts that had been smuggled into Britain. He said the rest of the art market should follow their example. He pointed out that the convention was not retroactive and would not affect

treasures such as the Elgin Marbles.

Dr Peter Addyman, director of the York Archaeological Trust and chairman of the standing conference, said: "The UK's archaeological community has taken an important step. We will be putting the detailed case for

Unidroit's implementation in the near future. Ethical traders have nothing to fear from it. The world's history will benefit from the better stewardship of archaeological material for which it provides."

He said the scale of the problem was almost impossible to estimate. "But the im-

pression we get in Britain is that whenever there's an opportunity for antiquities to be removed from their rightful place, such as Afghanistan or Iraq, where conditions mean something can be easily extracted from the ground, as often as not they turn up in London."



MARTIN BEDDALL

Wildlife charter calls for big fines

By NICK NUTTALL

FARMERS, landowners and companies that damage the country's most important wildlife sites could be arrested, face tougher fines and be forced to restore damaged areas to their natural state under a new Wildlife Charter.

The charter was unveiled yesterday by 22 green groups — including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Butterfly Conservation, the Wildlife Trusts, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the World Wide Fund for Nature — which want new legislation by next autumn to end the damage and destruction of the nation's Sites of Special Scientific Interest and the plants and animals they hold.

The groups also want a network of marine protected areas, mirroring those on the land, to conserve porpoises, dolphins and other ocean-living creatures.



The opening page of the manuscript for two sonatas

Rare Brahms manuscript to fetch £500,000

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

A RARE original manuscript by Brahms, regarded as the most important of its kind to come on the market, is expected to fetch £500,000 at auction in London. The composer usually destroyed drafts of his work, but he gave this one, for two sonatas, to the clarinetist who inspired him to write them and whose descendants are now selling.

Brahms met Richard Mühlfeld, the greatest clarinetist of his day, in 1891, a year after he had declared that he had retired from composing. He was so inspired by Mühlfeld's sensitive playing that he went to work on the sonatas, Op 12 No 1 in F minor and Op 120 No 2 in E flat major. The results are among his most refined work and the first important compositions for piano and clarinet.

The manuscript is signed

and dedicated "To Richard Mühlfeld. The master of his beautiful instrument. In heartfelt and thankful memory." The 67 pages are heavily revised and annotated.

A few Brahms scores in his own hand exist in museums in Vienna. But often he would employ a copyist to prepare the final draft for the publisher and then destroy his own. "He collected other people's manuscripts such as Mozart and Beethoven, but not his own. Maybe he didn't want the forensic scrutiny of his own work," said Stephen Roe, head of the books department at Sotheby's, which estimates that the manuscript will fetch between £450,000 and £600,000 next month.

If it does, it will be the most expensive Brahms manuscript ever sold. A Beethoven piano sonata fetched £1 million in 1990.



Brahms, left, and clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld, whose playing inspired him to resume composing

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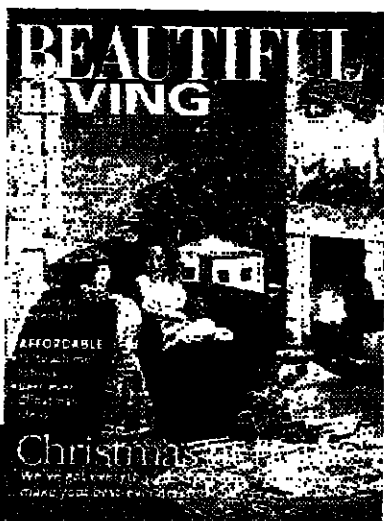
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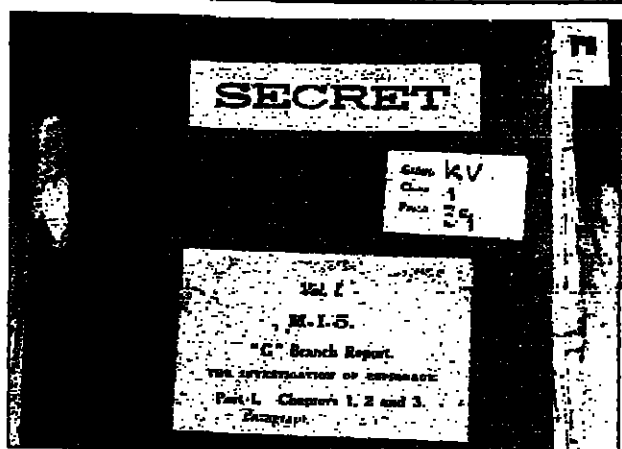
Hairdressers were among German agents' favourite recruits during the First World War, newly released MI5 files show. Michael Evans reports

UNCOVERING German espionage efforts before and during the First World War was a matter of top priority for the newly fledged Secret Service Bureau. But, as MI5 files released yesterday by the Public Record Office make clear, they often bordered on the farcical.

To gain the knowledge they were after, German spies recruited German-born hairdressers — a favourite source of intelligence gossip — schoolmasters, publicans, seamen, foreign pilots and "natives of the country prepared to betray their country for money". Watchmakers and photographers were also taken on occasionally.

For the Secret Service, the forerunner of MI5, some German spying activities were easily monitored. In one case, known as the Frant file, a German who gave his name as De Corina took a farm in the neighbourhood of Frant in Sussex. He went in for poultry farming, "but it was noticeable that the farm at Bartley Hill was a great rendezvous for Germans, most of whom spent the greater part of the time cycling and motoring all over the country".

The MI5 file states: "De Corina was a typical German and it was quite obvious that he could not be making his living from the proceeds of the farm." Although nothing was ever discovered "which could definitely connect this man with espionage, the whole



The Secret Service files from the First World War

circumstances of the case were very peculiar and suspicious".

In another operation, known as the Ruspier case, William Melville, a legendary Scotland Yard detective turned counter-espionage officer, was sent to the village of Ruspier in Sussex to investigate two Germans. The Germans pretended to know nothing of each other, "but rapidly struck up an acquaintance".

Melville booked into the same guesthouse "and caused these gentlemen some perturbation". The MI5 file revealed that the Germans cross-questioned the landlord and asked him if Melville could speak any foreign languages. The landlord said that he could not. Shortly afterwards, the Germans quarrelled — "it was evidently a put-up job" — and

refused to speak to each other until Melville had left.

Melville worked for G branch, which was responsible for counter-espionage. The MI5 files show that he was "too old for such work" and Captain Vernon Kell, the head of counter-espionage, had to apply for two more men to help with investigations.

The Secret Service was able to discover many of the code words used in passing messages back to German intelligence from spies it arrested. One, George Breckow, had his own codewords for Royal Navy ships. Old battleships were called Old Folks at Home, submarines Floating Down, and destroyers Pirates of Penzance. For naval ports he used musical terminology. Dartmouth was Darkie Melodies and Chatham Chattanooga.

ga Rag; Southampton was called Down South.

Other codewords used by various German spies included "eggs" for troops, "condensed milk" for cavalry, "margarine" for guns, "Dutch cheese" for battleships and "tinned lobster" for torpedo boats.

The spies used a variety of materials for sending off their secret messages. As early as November 1914, it was known that they were using secret writing. They used lemon juice, sometimes mixed with formalin. One message was "stamped on the skin of a Belgian woman", according to the files.

To detail the departure of warships from naval ports, the spies used a simple set of numbers in an otherwise inconspicuous message. The first number subtracted by one indicated the number of cruisers, the second the number of liners, the third the number of transports and the fourth the number of tracking vessels.

In each report, a date was given which, when increased by two indicated the date of departure of the ship. For example, the message: "Send 25 pounds. Richelien, 85 Bedford Street, stay till 20th", meant "One cruiser, five liners, eight transports, five tracking vessels, setting off the 22nd." Another message appearing in the MI5 files reads: "Offer 12 tons potatoes before 23rd." This meant: "No cruisers, two liners, starting 25th."



A hidden image appeared out of a suspect letter when chemicals were applied

Sinn Fein laid plans to assist invasion

SINN FEIN tried to help the Germans to land arms and troops on the West Coast of Ireland in the First World War, the MI5 files show. A report by H branch, dated June 1918, refers to the plot by the Sinn Fein Inner Circle.

All Irish republican volunteers along the coast began to march inland, "drawing the military after them and so leaving a clear field for the landing". Several were arrested but, the H branch report continues, "the arrests disarranged, but did not entirely upset their plans, and secret drilling, despatch riding, etc. continue". Sinn Fein denied the plot "but secretly derided the suggestion that the Government can learn anything about it".

The report also reveals that H branch acquired the notebook belonging to Eamon de Valera, the survivor of the 1916 Easter Rising who went on to become the first President of the Irish Republic. It contained a memorandum about the army he planned to raise after the rebellion had established the Republic.

There was no mention of plans to help a German invasion. De Valera has the dubious honour of being the subject of the first personal file to be created by MI5. It is known as PFI.

In the end, no German troops landed in Ireland. Sir Roger Casement, who was eventually executed for treason and is seen in Ireland as a martyr to the republican cause, went to Germany to seek arms in 1916. He was arrested on his return, having received only obsolete arms.

In one reference to Sir Roger in the files, it is reported that in April 1916 an MI5 officer overheard a "most indiscreet" telephone conversation between an Irishman and a woman, in which she revealed the "very secret measures" used to monitor Casement.

Vigilance of Captain Kell's team brought swift success

By MICHAEL EVANS



Vernon Kell: spymaster

IN THE years before the First World War, England was overrun with German spies who were accustomed to gathering intelligence unimpeded by any counter-espionage operation.

It was not until a meeting at Scotland Yard in August 1908 involving, among others, Sir Edward Henry, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, that the decision was taken to set up what became MI5. The man put in

charge was Captain Vernon Kell of the South Staffordshire Regiment, who spoke French, German, Russian and Chinese.

An MI5 document released yesterday said: "Unless a secret service system is prepared, we shall enter on a war fatally handicapped." One of the great fears was that Germans were already located at important sites from where they could observe England's military capabilities. An MI5 report said: "I believe several Germans now own land near important junctions. The Germans

paid particular attention last year to Hither Green [southeast London], the new junction on the South East Railway."

Based in the War Office, Captain Kell began work in October 1909 as a one-man band. By August 1914 he had nine officers, three police, three civilians and four clerks. The unit was originally known as MO5 (Military Operations), becoming MI5 in 1916.

The team proved highly successful. Its men arrested 21 agents when war began, paralysing the

German espionage effort. They were held until 1918.

The team also had an agent who was employed by the War Office to carry out intelligence-gathering abroad. Henry Dale Long, codenamed L, was based in Brussels. British spies sent abroad were given guidelines for procuring intelligence: when making sketches they should do so from a carriage, not on horseback, which was less discreet, even if the horse was "the quietest of animals".

The best way to communicate with

agents was to take meals at the same restaurant but at different tables "and on leaving to take each other's hats off the pegs — all communications being put inside the lining of the hats".

In a list of dos and don'ts, one MI5 file noted: "If you are working in an uncivilised country and someone begins to take a marked interest in your movements or in your possessions, it will probably end in your having to kill him, so do not waste time as soon as you feel that he is up to mischief."

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How Labour can avoid a repeat of Formula One fiasco

THE true story of the Ecclestone affair has started to emerge—and it is more muddle and inexperience than scandal. Nonetheless, despite Tony Blair's belief that he has done nothing wrong, there are important lessons over the way Downing Street works and for government relations with business donors. These are distinct from whatever long-term changes in the rules on party funding are recommended by the Neill committee.

Three separate problems occurred. First, the Government sent out confused signals over the implications of a ban on tobacco

sponsorship for sport. The first contacts between 10 Downing Street and the Health Department were on May 6, four days after Mr Blair became Prime Minister. But the two were not always on the same wavelength. This maximised the impression of a big shift in policy when the exemption of Formula One was announced.

Second, ministers were too slow to appreciate the dangers of the appearance of a conflict of interest. Mr Blair's explanation of why it took him so long to decide against accepting a second Ecclestone donation and to consult the Neill committee was legalistic rather

than political. The ethical red flag ought to have been waving from mid-October rather than a fortnight ago when the exemption decision was taken. The Blair camp argues that it would have been wrong to penalise Mr Ecclestone when he had already met other European leaders. Given the potential for misunderstanding, other senior ministers, rather than Mr Blair, should have met Mr Ecclestone, or the meeting

should have been more formal with health and trade and industry ministers also involved.

Third, Downing Street took a week to realise the seriousness of the affair and to respond. Mr Blair received conflicting, and times inconsistent, advice from his inner circle — Gordon Brown, Lord Irvine of Lairg, Peter Mandelson and Alastair Campbell. Some wanted full disclosure earlier; others were apprehensive about the implications. So information dribbled out in the most damaging way. Moreover, only a few ministers, led by Mr Mandelson and Jack Straw, publicly raised their

heads to defend Mr Blair. Others were unusually reclusive.

Mr Blair prefers an informal style and can be impatient with more formal procedures. But he needs to tighten up the Downing Street and funding operations. As the American Democrats have found, there is always the danger of fundraisers becoming over-enthusiastic and cutting corners. This is not a matter of moralising but of practical politics. The Blair team complain about being judged by higher standards than were demanded of the Tories and of being penalised in raising funds. But Labour was elected on a "clean up

politics" platform. So Mr Blair has to be seen to be above reproach.

The long-term answer is full disclosure of not only the names of donors, as planned in legislation this session, but also the size of donations above £5,000. In the meantime, Mr Blair should introduce procedures for meetings with businessmen who have been big donors. Labour argues reasonably that it would be wrong to treat them worse than businessmen who have not given money. But any meetings between ministers and big donors should be formal, include all relevant departments, and be fully minuted. Perhaps the

Ministerial Code should be revised. But, at present, there is no one to advise on these issues. Neither the Cabinet Secretary nor the Neill committee is the right body. It would be better to have a freestanding Office of Government Ethics or a commissioner to give rapid advice on these matters.

With the Tories largely ineffective, the Blair inner circle regards such suggestions as unnecessary. But not only are they justified by recent events but they would also allow the Government to regain the political initiative.

PETER RIDDELL

Blair starts raising cash to repay £1m donation

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR will begin the task of raising money to pay back Bernie Ecclestone's £1 million donation when he addresses Labour's wealthiest supporters at a £250-a-head gala lunch next month.

Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, have agreed to attend the Labour Friends of Israel annual lunch on December 9. Senior Cabinet ministers including Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will be present.

The lunch date could pay rich dividends for the party, which is millions of pounds in debt but has to return the Formula One chief's gift after the row over motor-racing's exemption from the ban on tobacco sponsorship of sport.

The 400 names on the guest list for the function, to be held at a West London hotel, could have been drawn up by Labour's finance department as it boasts some of the most generous donors to party funds.

Lord Sainsbury of Turville, ennobled by Mr Blair after the general election, will be at one of the top tables. He was reported at the weekend to have given Labour £1 million.

The gathering is being held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of Israel. Mr Blair, who last spoke to the group in 1994, will be in familiar company. Michael Levy, the millionaire record producer who was behind the biggest campaign to bring

private enterprise cash into secret Labour Party funds, will be present.

Mr Levy, one of Mr Blair's closest supporters and his regular tennis partner, is said to have helped to raise £7 million. The money was channelled into blind trusts that financed the office costs of Mr Blair, Mr Brown, John Prescott and Margaret Beckett when they were in Opposition.

Sir Trevor Chinn, the head of Lex Services, who is reported to have given Labour a six-figure sum, is on the guest list along with Sir Emmanuel Kaye, a multimillionaire industrialist who was a donor to Mr Blair's blind trust.

Nick Cosgrave, the director

of the Labour Friends of Israel, said: "It will be a chance for the Prime Minister to mingle among old friends and supporters of the party. We have virtually sold every ticket. Mr Blair is a big draw."

"I'm sure there will be no mention of Bernie Ecclestone. He is not on the guest list. But some of the most important people in industry will be there."

The Labour Party will tighten its vetting procedures for potential benefactors in future. A senior party source said: "Having had an episode like this the finance department is bound to look again at how it raises the money. If someone came and started waving a big cheque around more questions would be asked."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said on BBC Radio 4's Today programme that the affair had been an accident waiting to happen. "So let's reassure the public's trust in politics. I have already issued instructions to our party treasurer that we are not going to accept any donations from people who are not prepared to have their names published."

Letters, page 23



House of Lords latecomer: Roy Hattersley with his dog, Buster

Reluctant Roy ready for his robe

By James Landale

HE WANTS the place abolished, hates the idea of becoming an "old codger" and cannot imagine wearing ermine. But after seven months of procrastination, Roy Hattersley has swallowed his pride and finally decided to take his seat in Lords.

"Reluctant Roy", as the former deputy Labour leader became known this summer, will on Monday be gazetted as Lord Hattersley of Sparkbrook and be formally introduced. Biting his lip, he will don his red robes, swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen and doff his hat three times at the Lord Chancellor. He will be one of the last peers to undergo the 370-year-old ceremony, which is to be reformed.

Mr Hattersley was raised to the peerage by John Major when Parliament was dissolved in April. But over the summer he refused to organise his title with Garter King of Arms or fix a date for his introduction. The process usually takes two months.

In a newspaper column in April, he said that the Lords should be abolished and that it would take him a "great effort of will to discuss style and titles with somebody called Garter King of Arms". He added: "Members of the nobility who are offended by my flippancy should understand that I turn hysterical every time I think of taking my oath of allegiance. I have no difficulty with swearing my fealty to the Queen... I just cannot imagine myself dressed in ermine robes and taking my hat off as I walk up and down... Nor am I ready to face the 'old codger' aspect of being a peer."

Tories keep up the pressure

THE Prime Minister was accused yesterday of inconsistencies in the television interview he gave on Sunday to try to dampen the row over the Formula One affair (Philip Webster writes).

Tory MPs also raised a potential conflict in the role of Jonathan Powell. Mr Blair's chief of staff, who was closely involved in fundraising when he ran Mr Blair's office in

Opposition, Andrew Tyrie (Chichester) pointed out that Mr Powell knew who the big donors were and now controlled the door to Mr Blair.

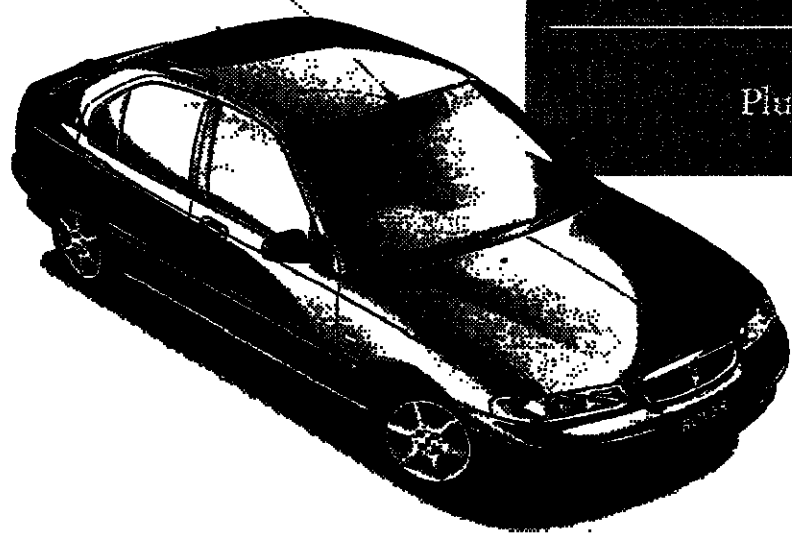
John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said that Mr Blair had said on Sunday that Labour had told Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One chief, on November 5 that it could accept no further donations from him because of the

decision on tobacco sponsorship. Downing Street said yesterday that Mr Powell had telephoned Mr Ecclestone's office that day to make that point clear.

But, Mr Maples said, in its letter to Sir Patrick Neill, the standards watchdog, on November 7, Labour had said that it was consulting him on whether a second donation should properly be accepted.

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RELAX.

Burgundy's leaves sour for wine bu

Kohl takes heart voters swing in favour of euro

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PETER RIDDELL

**Reluctant
boy ready
for his robe**

By James F. Langan

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Burgundy's rise leaves sour taste for wine buffs

France's top châteaux may be pricing themselves off the market, Ben Macintyre writes from Paris

THE rocketing price of Burgundy has reinforced predictions that 1997 could be one of the great vintage years, but it has left a nasty taste in the mouths of wine buffs who fear that French wine could become too expensive to compete with newer wine-producing countries.

Their prices and might persuade buyers to see fine French wine as a tipple only for corporate investors or wealthy connoisseurs. "The inevitable final result is to reduce our competitive edge in an ever more competitive market," the Burgundy Wine Board said.

The highest price of the auction was recorded by the white wine Bâtard Montrachet, which was sold for the equivalent of £50 a bottle, an increase of 78 per cent over last year. Bottling, storing and shipping the wine will eventually more than double the price.



An auctioneer takes bids during France's annual Hospice de Beaune charity wine sale, where Burgundy prices soared by 47 per cent

Kohl takes heart as voters swing in favour of euro

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN opposition to European economic and monetary union has started to melt away, much to the amazement and delight of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, who next year has to win a general election shortly after scrapping the mark.

Konrad Adenauer Foundation is the Christian Democratic think-tank and the Allensbach Institute's findings often come out more supportive of the Chancellor than other pollsters. Even so the shift is so big it must represent a new mood. "It signifies the breakthrough for the public acceptance of the euro," says Günter Rinsche, chairman of the foundation.

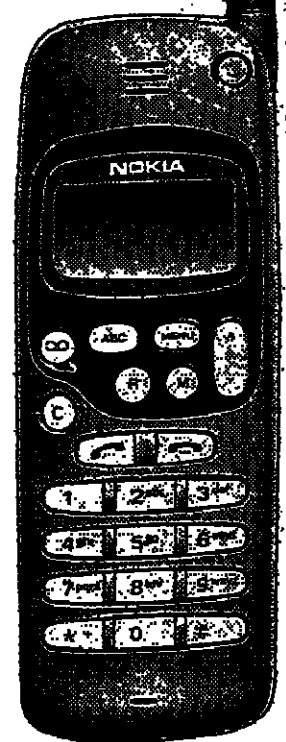
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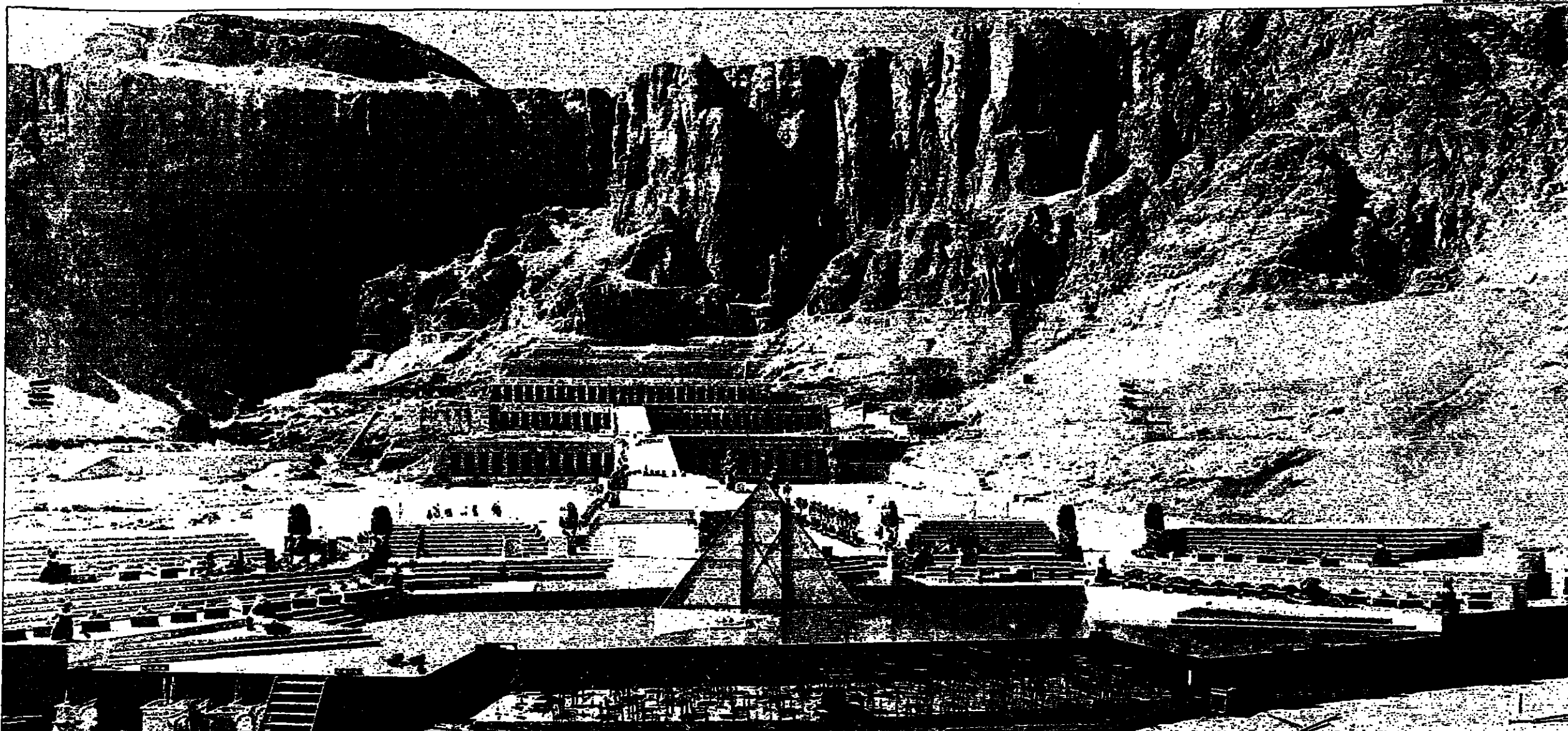


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Queen Hatshepsut's temple in Luxor, the scene of yesterday's massacre of tourists and an ensuing three-hour battle between police and the suspected Islamic militants responsible for the attack

Tourist bloodbath deals blow to Mubarak

President has lost his battle against militants to convince visitors Egypt is safe, Christopher Walker writes

THE tourist bloodbath yesterday in the shadow of Luxor's magnificent Pharaonic temples dealt a fatal blow to attempts by President Mubarak to convince the world that his five-year campaign against Islamic militants is showing signs of success.

A leading London-based Arab commentator, Ali Ibrahim, claimed that the attack had been designed to do the maximum damage to his moderate, pro-Western Islamic regime. "It will kill the tourist season," he added.

Coming a month after the militants slaughtered 11 policemen in the southern Egyptian province of Minya, their biggest ever toll of security men in a single day, the mass murder of so many tourists was seen as evidence that the extremists have regrouped and embarked on a new wave of violence.

Even before the full horror of the latest attack became apparent, more than doubling the number of foreigners killed since the main Islamic

terror organisation, al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, launched its struggle to topple the regime in 1992, there were dire warnings in the semi-official Cairo press about complacency on the part of the Government.

"Our security officials have to stop parroting their routine boasting. 'Terrorism is vanquished! We have annihilated the remainder!'," warned Samir Ragab, editor of the *Egyptian Gazette*, the daily read by most tourists in Cairo, and one of Egypt's most influential journalists.

The choice of the tourist industry as a target was made primarily because of its importance as the second largest earner of foreign currency — after remittances sent from Egyptians working abroad — and thus a major prop of what the militants refer to scathingly as "the apostate regime of President Mubarak".

In a statement after a previous attack against a tourist target, the al-Gamaa — whose name means the Islamic



A wounded tourist is carried onto a helicopter to be flown for treatment in Cairo

Group — claimed that it would continue its struggle "until an Islamic state is established in Egypt and the criminal Mubarak is killed in just retaliation".

With a turnover estimated at more than £2 billion, the tourist industry is the most vulnerable sector of the economy. It is calculated that as many as ten million — roughly one in every six of the 61 million Egyptians — rely on it to some extent for their livelihoods.

"Ten million Egyptians eat from tourism," said one former Cairo-based diplomat. "It is no wonder that many ordi-

nary Egyptians are fed up with fundamentalist attacks."

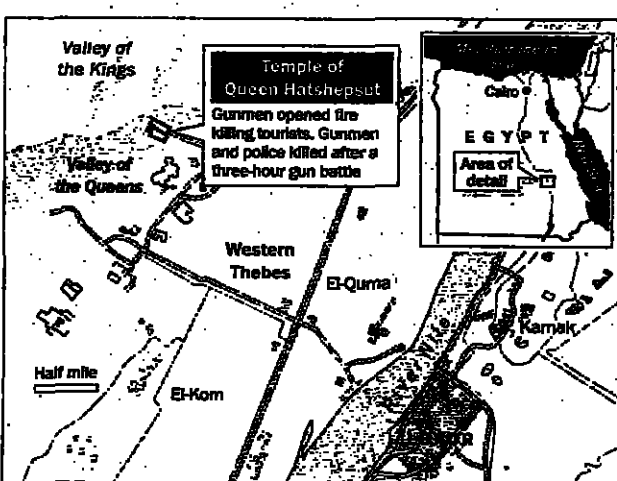
Yesterday's shootings, planned with military-type precision, were timed to do maximum damage to the industry. It was launched just at the start of the winter tourist season in Upper Egypt, the home of many of the most spectacular sites, and at a time when senior Egyptian tourist officials were attending a big conference in London to promote visitors from Europe.

These had suffered a severe blow in September when nine German tourists and their Egyptian driver were shot and killed in their bus outside the

Egyptian Museum in the heart of Cairo. Although the culprits were described as mentally ill by the Government, they too professed sympathy with extreme Islamic ideals and were claimed by a network of sympathisers in the city's slums.

The two attacks came as the battered tourist industry had been showing signs of picking up again after the crippling damage inflicted by the al-Gamaa in 1993 and 1994 with its attacks on trains, Nile cruises and tourist buses.

Almost 450,000 foreigners visited Egypt in August, the



highest figure ever for a single month. In 1996, a total of four million tourists arrived and officials had hoped that figure would be exceeded this year.

Recently Mr Mubarak, whose Government is accused of corruption, had refused an offer of a dialogue from the Islamists, although Hassan al-Ahfi, his Interior Minister, welcomed a truce call issued by some imprisoned militant leaders as a useful start.

Like his counterparts in Algeria, Mr Mubarak, a former air force commander, is determined to crush the militants militarily. However, diplomats say that he has

underestimated the splits inside the Islamic movement and the pressure from extremists called abroad for unrelenting violence.

The anti-Mubarak militants receive logistical support from neighbouring Sudan and ideological backing from Iran. Their leaders have repeatedly expressed belief in an updated version of the old domino theory once centred on Vietnam: that if the Egyptian Government falls, many other moderate Islamic regimes in the Arab world will follow suit.

More than 1,100 people have been killed since the militants

began a series of attacks aimed at overthrowing Mr Mubarak.

Although he has recently been taking steps to streamline the over-centralised economy, little has been done to eliminate the social ills on which the fundamentalists thrive. They have threatened that he will suffer the same fate as his assassinated predecessor, Anwar Sadat. More than half the population cannot read. Unemployment among graduates in some cities is 80 per cent. The administration is strangled by red-tape and cronyism, with allegations of corruption reaching into the Mubarak family and only stifled by a draconian series of repressive press laws.

The key to Mr Mubarak's survival has been the 400,000-strong army and his ubiquitous internal security network, the Mukhabarat. But senior Western diplomats have expressed concern that the long-serving President has become surrounded by sycophants who are shielding him from the growing unpopularity of a regime supported by one of the most shamelessly rigged electoral systems in the Arab world.

Leading article, page 23

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What can we do for you?

Britain and US offer Saddam end to sanctions

BY TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON, MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA, JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMERICA and Britain yesterday backed away from a military confrontation with Iraq, offering a joint proposal to lift sanctions against Baghdad if President Saddam Hussein complied with United Nations resolutions to inspect his weapons facilities.

The proposal, worked out between Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, would result in a gradual lifting of sanctions while assuring compliance with the UN mandate to allow weapons inspection teams into Iraq.

Mr Cook yesterday telephoned his French and Russian counterparts to bolster political and diplomatic solidarity with new proposals to be put jointly to Saddam.

The proposals offer Saddam "light at the end of the tunnel" by promising to make more food and medicine available to Iraq and giving firmer guarantees on eventual lifting of UN sanctions.

The four permanent UN representatives have concluded that, as military action appears increasingly problematic, they must step up

DIPLOMACY

their diplomatic drive. In talks yesterday with Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr Cook discussed a possible Russian mediation. Mr Primakov, who visited Baghdad before the Gulf War, is a Middle East specialist with strong connections to Iraq. He may undertake a new round of shuttle diplomacy that this time would have the full backing of his Security Council partners.

At Russia's urging, the UN plans to convene a meeting on Friday of the 21 commissioners who provide technical advice to the UN Special Commission (Unsc) charged with ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

Russia is trying to transform the commissioners from an advisory council into a governing body empowered to provide political direction to Richard Butler, the Unsc chair, and his senior staff. By doing so, Russia apparently hopes to meet Iraq's demands for a restructuring of Unsc to reduce the influence of America and undercut

the power of Mr Butler. The Unsc commissioners usually meet every six months, most recently in October, to review the progress of the UN inspectors, but have no procedure for decision making.

Officials said that the plans Mr Cook discussed yesterday were intended to reassure Saddam that he would not face a permanent US veto on lifting sanctions. He would be told what were the main allied requirements and then assured that sanctions would be lifted on his compliance.

Although the White House yesterday firmly rejected an Iraqi compromise that would specify the nationality of those on the Unsc teams, it became clear that a big diplomatic push was under way to resolve a crisis that has lasted almost three weeks.

President Chirac of France said he sensed "some form of detente" while Western diplomats in the Gulf complained that the military option had been "talked up too much". Most Arab countries also favour setting Iraq a firm timetable to divulge its weapons secrets in return for a schedule to lift sanctions.



Aaron Perez, a flight deck crew member of the carrier USS Nimitz in the Gulf, catches a moment's rest against the fuel tank of a US warplane

"Iraq does not seek conflict with the United States and if there is a solution to the crisis, we would be happy," Saddam declared on Sunday. Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, suggested

that US weapons experts could return if their numbers were equally matched by inspectors from the other countries with permanent seats on the UN Security Council. His offer was rejected as impractical by Unsc's Mr Butler, who also insisted Iraq could not be allowed to dictate the composition of his teams. Mr Butler said Iraq's compromise to allow the return of inspectors to Baghdad could signal

the beginning of a diplomatic solution to the crisis. At the UN, Mr Butler said any change in the national composition of the teams did not alter the fundamental question about Saddam's arsenal. "I

don't know how changing the nationality is going to change the objectivity of the science, but let's see," he said. "Maybe this is the beginning of a diplomatic way out of this crisis."

America considers how to bring about the death of a President

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

ASSASSINATION DEBATE

A DEBATE is growing in the United States over the moral and practical issues of assassinating President Saddam Hussein.

George Stephanopoulos, formerly a close aide to President Clinton, said: "We should kill him." Thomas Friedman, foreign affairs columnist for *The New York Times*, has discussed a "head shot" for Saddam. An essay in *Time* asks: "Isn't it moral — as with Hitler in

1938 — to take this one life before he takes thousands more, or hundreds or even one?"

Targeting Saddam is not that simple. He is wily, uses doubles, frequently purges his inner circle, has his food checked for poison and has spent years shuffling among dozens of residences to evade his many enemies.

Norman Schwarzkopf, who led allied forces during the Gulf War,

recalled at the weekend how every Iraqi command-and-control centre was bombed in the first three days of the conflict. "Obviously that meant we were attacking places where we thought Saddam would be, but he wasn't there," the general said. "Somehow he received advance word we were coming, or he was just darned lucky."

General Schwarzkopf said he has concluded that Saddam is impossi-

ble to find without an intelligence network in Iraq with inside information about where he will be. Even if allied forces had continued to Baghdad at the end of the war, he was quite sure they would still not have found Saddam.

Both the general and George Bush, the former President, remain convinced that the Gulf War coalition would have ruptured if the Americans and British had attempted to press on to eliminate Saddam when they seemed to have him on the run. In a BBC2

documentary, *The Search for Peace*, to be aired on Sunday, Mr Bush declares: "I know the French would have left us in a minute. I know the Egyptians and Turks have been gone and Syria would have been long gone had we rolled into Baghdad." He adds: "Who's going to find the most secure potentate dictator in the world?"

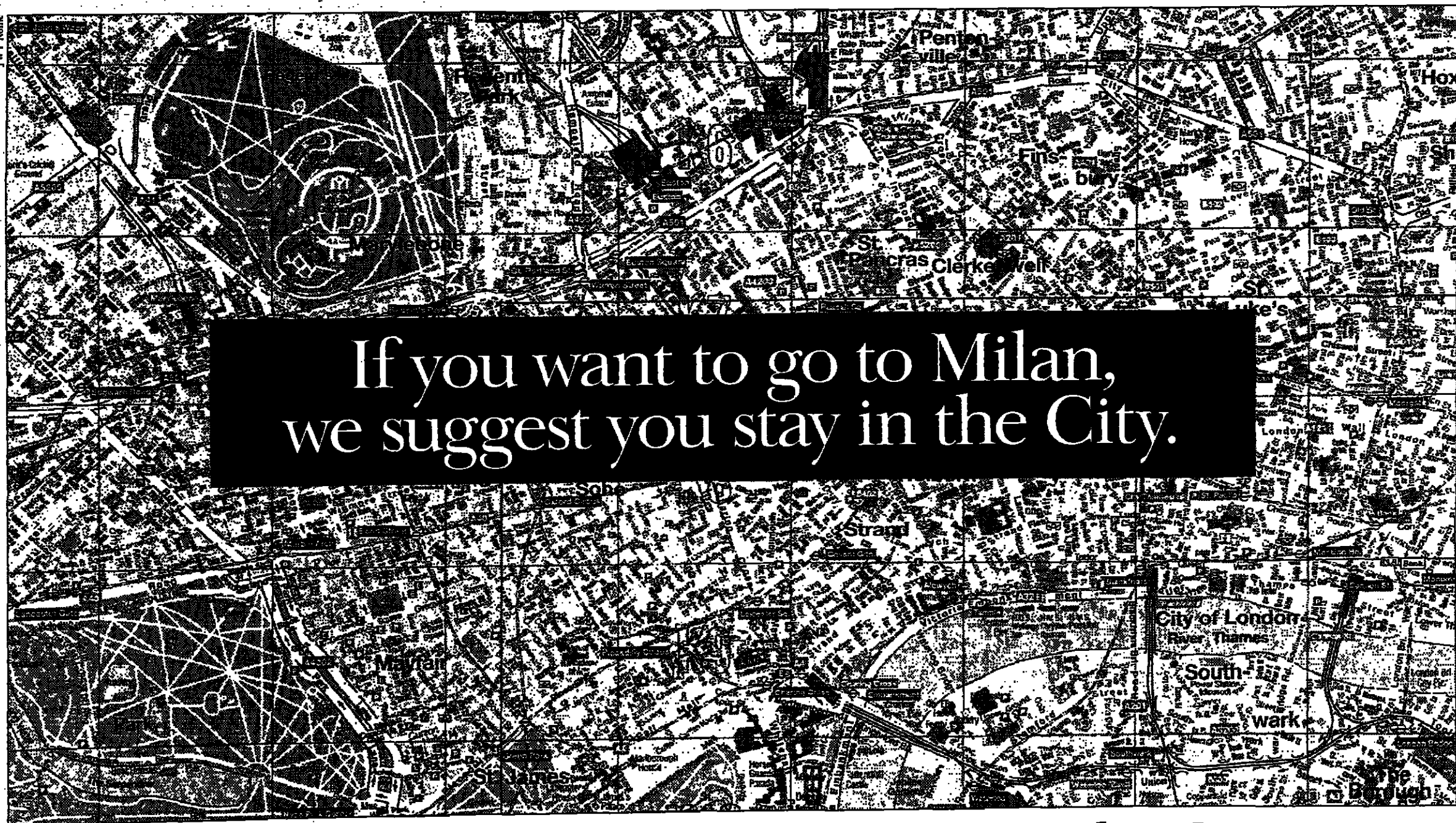
Execution of foreign leaders by government agents was outlawed by Executive Order 12333 signed by Ronald Reagan as President. It says: "No person employed by or

acting on behalf of the United States Government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination." This ban was the result of revision over a string of American plots to assassinate President Castro of Cuba and other leaders who were not to Washington's liking.

As for Saddam's hoped-for demise, Richard Haass, White House Middle East expert during the Gulf War, told *Time*: "I have yet to see anything remotely persuasive about how you could take out Saddam. A wish is not a policy."



Stephanopoulos said Saddam must be killed.



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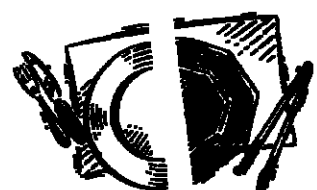
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Aboriginal art world is rocked by fresh scandal

Welshman claims to have painted many prized indigenous works
Roger Maynard
writes from Sydney

A WELSHMAN who claims to have produced some of Australia's most valuable indigenous paintings has found himself at the centre of a scandal that could undermine the Aboriginal art industry.

Ray Beamish, who used to live with Kathleen Petyarre, the prize-winning Aboriginal artist, has alleged that he is the main painter of many of her works, which have a combined value of hundreds of thousands of pounds. He claims to have developed the distinctive "sacred women's dreaming" style of painting that was attributed to his former partner.

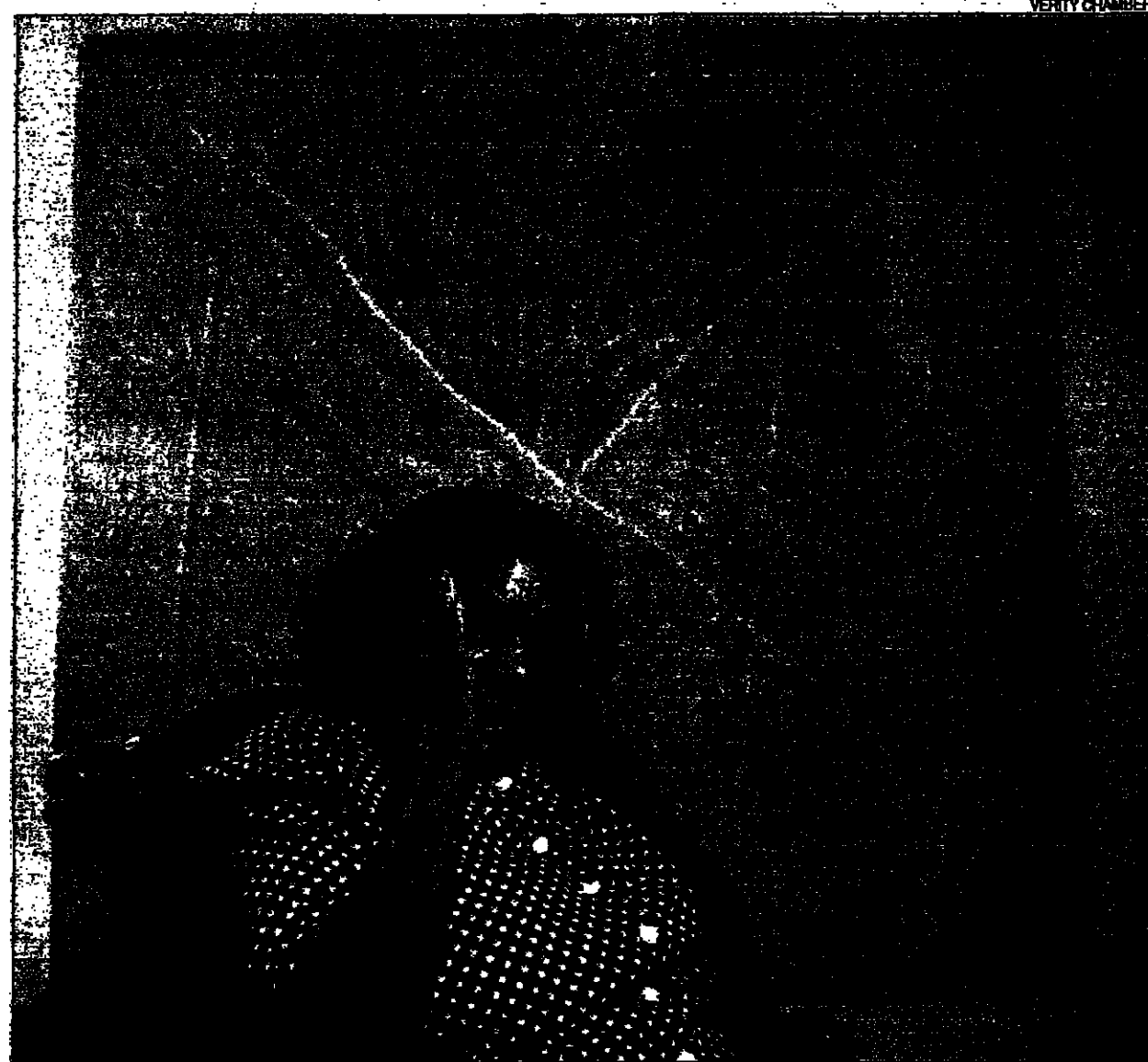
Beamish also says he is the main painter of her *Storm in Atnangkere Country II*, which won Australia's most prestigious and longest-running Aboriginal art award, the 1996 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award.

If true, the allegations overshadow any previous scandal about the identity of Aboriginal painters, including last year's disclosure that an elderly West Australian pastoralist, Elizabeth Durack, had successfully misled Australia's art world by pretending to be an Aboriginal artist called Eddie Birrup.

Susan McCulloch, the co-author of the *Encyclopaedia of Australian Art*, said: "What this means in the broader context is that a storm of serious proportions will hit the Aboriginal art industry. Now, for the first time, a big indigenous-only prize has been won by what I believe to be a non-authentic work."

The controversy came to light amid tension surrounding the couple's recent separation and mounting professional jealousies between rival art dealers.

According to Beamish the idea for the Telstra award-winning work was his alone and he painted at least 90 per cent of it. "She probably would



Kathleen Petyarre, with *Storm in Atnangkere Country II*, the painting that won her a prestigious Aboriginal art award. Her contribution to the work is in dispute.

have done a day's dots," he said.

Ms Petyarre has also admitted that her ex-partner had worked with her on some of her paintings, including "the middle" of the Telstra work. However, in a statement issued later by her lawyers she insisted that he had only helped her in "marking out the canvases" and maintained that she was "the author of any of the paintings signed by me". She said: "I have been given these Dreamings by my grandfather and only me and my sisters are allowed to paint our stories."

While these latest allegations will send shock waves through an industry that gen-

erates millions of pounds on the international art market, some observers believe it will also force the industry to address fundamental questions over authorship. Fuelled by admiring comments of critics and curators, many Aboriginal painters have found their work suddenly worth thousands of pounds. Gallery owners who used to enjoying fat commissions for selling indigenous paintings of sometimes questionable quality also have a vested interest in the continued growth of the market. Many experts have promoted Aboriginal works of art as Australia's only true artistic heritage, likening them to the

equivalent of Turners and Constables.

When Durack, who is of Irish descent, revealed that Birrup was merely a figment of her imagination, the 32-year-old white woman embarrassed the cognoscenti and infuriated the nation's indigenous artists.

Ms McCulloch said she believed the latest claims could only help towards a general industry clean-up. "Any hints that things may not be as they seem make potential purchasers extremely wary and can cost millions of dollars in sales — a great pity considering the amounts of fair dealing and genuine art which is around," she said.



Beamish claims he is the main painter

New York pigeon poisoner makes city no-fly zone

FROM TUNIKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

POLICE and animal welfare groups in New York are engaged in a frantic search for a serial killer who, operating at night, has poisoned thousands of the city's pigeons.

Large clusters of pigeon carcasses were discovered last week on the plush Upper West Side, where pigeons are normally better fed than in any other part of New York. Numerous dead birds have also been found in the city centre, as well as Greenwich Village, suggesting that the poisoner is on an "extermination mission".

New York is home to many hundreds of thousands of pigeons, so a few thousand dead does not signify a demographic disaster. Pigeons here are not only ubiquitous, they are also bold, noisy, pushy, greedy and dirty. In fact, many in the city are quietly applauding the killer, in a manner reminiscent of Londoners who cheered last year when someone stole over 2,000 pigeons from Trafalgar Square.

Reflecting city-wide sentiment, Elizabeth Warburton, a Briton living in New York, said: "I hope this doesn't sound callous, but I cannot bring myself to disapprove of someone who wages war on a menace like these pigeons."

However, Peter Parris, a spokesman for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, took a less sympathetic view of the matter. Speaking to *The New York Times*, he said: "We feel that this is someone who truly hates pigeons and could be a very disturbed person." Mr Parris, however, added darkly: "He may not stop at pigeons. Who knows what other animal he may dislike?"

The killer's night-time modus operandi is simple. He (or she) first laces bread crumbs and birdseed with a lethal pesticide called carburefuran, and then scatters the poisoned food at strategic points where pigeons are known to congregate.

When the birds awaken, they feed to their fill before departing, poisoned, to another world.

Leading article, page 23

Corporate giants win supporting role at La Scala

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE troubled La Scala opera house, which staged the premieres of Verdi and Puccini and flourished under Toscanini, yesterday passed into the hands of a private foundation funded by a who's who of Italian industry headed by Firelli, the Milan-based company famous for both its tyres and its calendars.

Riccardo Muti, the conductor and La Scala's artistic director, welcomed the "rejuvenation" of the opera house, but warned investors not to overstep their role by trying to "interfere in La Scala's artistic life or dictate its choice of productions".

The privatisation scheme is the brainchild of Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, with the support of Carlo Fontana, the opera director, and Signor Muti. Under a new Italian law, all 13 opera houses will become private foundations — with both private and public funding — by June 1999. The experiment, with La Scala leading the way, will be watched by other opera houses, including the Royal Opera House and English National Opera.

Ticket sales cover only 20 per cent of the running costs of Italian opera houses, and the rest has until now been met by central and local government. Under the new scheme at La Scala, private companies will have a 40 per cent holding, with public authorities controlling 60 per cent. The state will provide £33 million annually, with Firelli giving £2 million, and banks and insurance companies footing the rest of the bill.

Signor Fontana said private companies would not just have a "supporting role" but would be part of the opera house and its decision-making process. "This is more than sponsorship, which has not always been a constructive factor in the music business," Signor Fontana said. He said La Scala might cut costs further by sharing productions with the San Carlo Opera House in Naples and



Anna Caterina Antonacci performing at La Scala

La Fenice Opera House in Venice, which burned down in January last year but is due to reopen "as it was, where it was" by 2000.

Signor Muti said the new La Scala Foundation needed "iron cast written rules" to ensure that "absolute liberty and artistic autonomy" were safeguarded. He said he hoped privatisation would enable La Scala to "re-live its golden age and recapture the spirit of the 1920s, when under Arturo Toscanini it was a model for the world of opera".

He added: "But I say to the private investors, let us understand each other clearly: by investing money you do not acquire the right to decide whether it is better to stage Luigi Spontini's *The Vestal Virgin* or some other lighter, romantic opera."

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New York
pigeon
poisoner
makes city
no-fly zone

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

POLICE and animal welfare groups in New York are engaged in a frantic search for a small killer who operates at night, has poisoned thousands of the city's pigeons.

Large clusters of pigeon carcasses were discovered last week on the Upper East Side, where pigeons are normally better protected than any other part of New York.

Thousands of dead birds have been found in the streets, as well as in a park, a village, a savanna, and the pigeon is not an ordinary bird.

New York is home to many thousands of thousands of pigeons, but a few thousand are not. And the difference is a deadly poison. The poison is not a chemical, but a virus. It is a virus that is not a virus, but a virus that is not a virus.

Reduction in the number of pigeons in New York is a major concern. The city is not a city, but a city that is not a city. The city is not a city, but a city that is not a city.

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US Jews attack Israeli 'identity' Bill

Netanyahu is at the centre of a row over who can claim to be a Jew, Tunku Varadarajan writes

AMERICAN Jews, enraged by a Bill before the Knesset that would give Orthodox rabbis a monopoly over conversion to Judaism, have dealt a hostile reception to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, who is visiting the United States.

Reform and conservative Jews constitute more than 80 per cent of America's Jewish population, and their leaders argue that the Bill effectively relegates them to the status of "second-class Jews". Mr Netanyahu, who relies on 23 Orthodox MPs to keep his rickety parliamentary coalition afloat, has expressed support for the Bill, thus drawing criticism in America.

According to *The New York Times* yesterday, the Bill has upset Jews here so much that many are redirecting their donations to non-governmental organisations in Israel, or even to causes that bear no relation to Israel.

Talking about the "who is a Jew" Bill, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, a leading conservative scholar at New York University, said that "there is not an American Jewish family in which there is not a convert by Reform or conservative rabbis". He added: "When Israel starts carrying on and saying these are not Jews, we are being informed that many of our nieces and nephews and, alas, some of our children and grandchil-

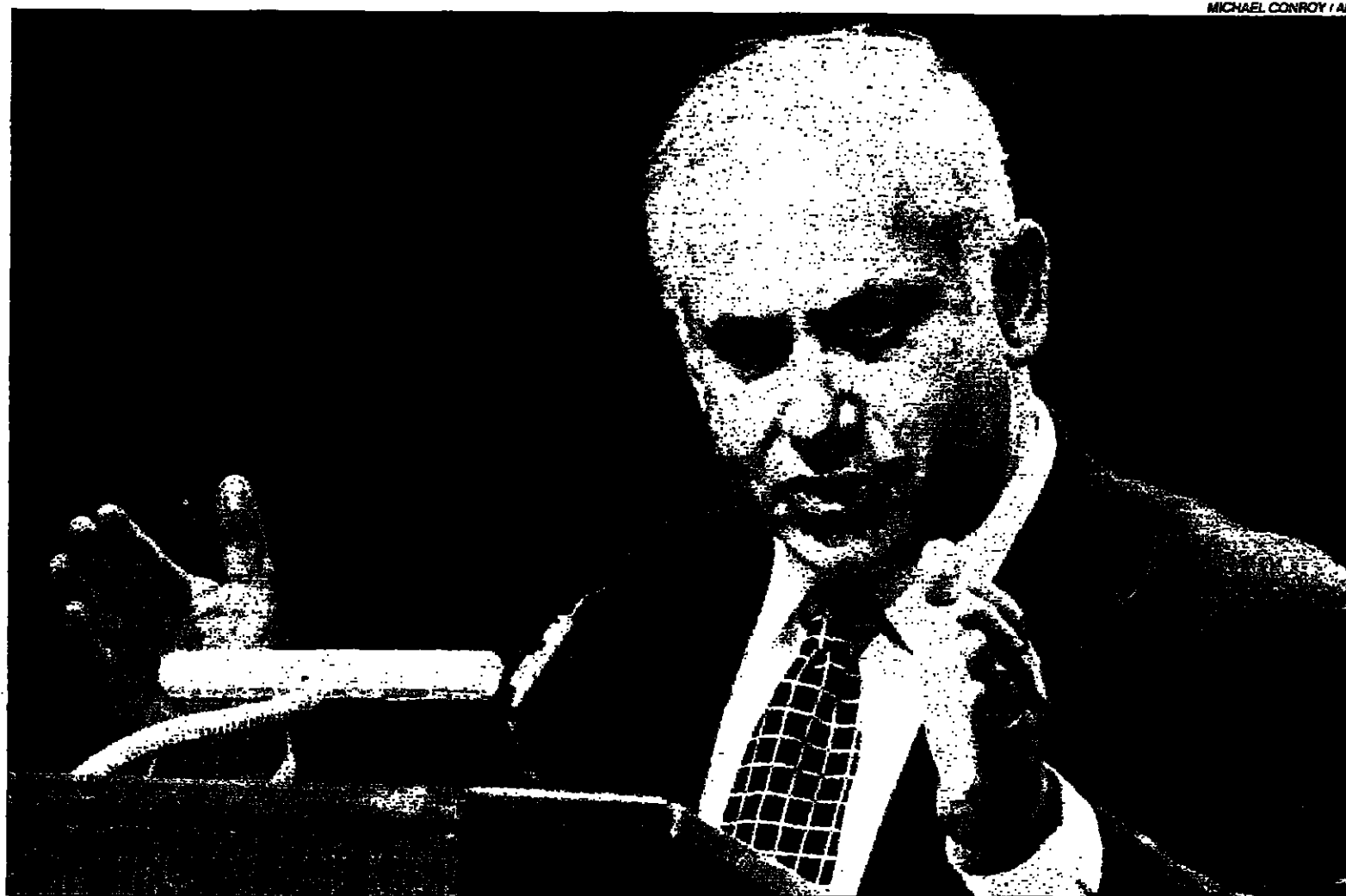
dren are not Jews. And that is what people care about."

Gary Tobin, director of the Cohen Centre for Modern Jewish Studies, said that American Jews, given their high rate of intermarriage with non-Jews, "do not want anyone telling them that their children are not really Jews". Mr Netanyahu was hissed and booed when he addressed a meeting in Indianapolis on Sunday, organised by the American Council of Jewish Federations. Many wore buttons on their lapels that said: "Israel, don't write off four million Jews."

Anticipating the hostile reception, Mr Netanyahu had a conciliatory speech prepared for the gathering, in which he insisted that there was "no such thing as a second-class Jew". In an impassioned address, he said: "I would like to express myself... as a friend who is deeply and acutely aware of your bewilderment and pain. I want to state as emphatically as I can: no one, nobody, can deprive a Jew of his Jewishness."

"No power on earth can rob any Jew of his or her identity. There can be no such thing as a second-class Jew. Every Jew — every Jew — is a legitimate Jew. Period. We are all equal before God."

In words that will now earn sharp criticism from Orthodox quarters back home, Mr Netanyahu said:



Mr Netanyahu addressing the Indianapolis conference, where he was jeered when he tried to allay American Jews' fears over identity

"The membership in our faith and in our people is not the exclusive domain of anyone." It is this exclusivity, however, that Israel's powerful Orthodox lobby lays claim to, and

which the Prime Minister has endorsed in the recent past.

Mr Netanyahu's words, which appeared to soothe some American leaders — but failed to convince others —

coincided with inflammatory remarks made in Jerusalem by Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

The rabbi, whose words have been latched on to by American Jews as evidence

that "something is rotten in the state of Israel", said: "The Reform does not belong with the people of Israel. These people should be cast out, vomited

out, so that they will not remain in Israel." The religious Shas party has ten seats in the Knesset, and Mr Netanyahu's words in Indianapolis will have infuriated the grassroots membership.

remain in Israel." The religious Shas party has ten seats in the Knesset, and Mr Netanyahu's words in Indianapolis will have infuriated the grassroots membership.

WORLD SUMMARY

Hungary votes to join Nato

Bonn: Hungary has voted by an overwhelming majority to join Nato (Roger Boyes writes). The official result of Sunday's referendum showed that more than 85 per cent of voters favoured Nato membership, despite evidence over the past few months of substantial resistance. The turnout was 51 per cent.

China pit tragedy

Beijing: At least 87 miners were killed in a gas explosion at a coalmine in central China. A further 36 were brought out alive but two rescue workers were killed trying to reach them. (Reuters)

Banda in coma

Blantyre: Hastings Kamuzu Banda, the nonagenarian former dictator of Malawi, has been flown to South Africa for emergency treatment after being in a coma for two days with pneumonia. (AFP)

Sharif in court

Islamabad: Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's Prime Minister, appeared before the Supreme Court after allegedly making slanderous remarks against the Chief Justice. He may be forced to step down.

Nigeria change

Abuja: General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military ruler, said he has dismissed his Cabinet so that some of them could take part in his plan to restore civilian rule to the country next year. (Reuters)

Born winners

Paris: A retired French couple called Loterie have won more than £10 million (£1 million) in the country's lottery. Their family name was given to an ancestor by hospital officials. (AFP)

Time exposure

Geneva: Music boxes and watches featuring clockwork erotica fetched two to three times their estimates at auction here. The biggest surprise was a 1997 Geneva watch that fetched £23,500. (AFP)

Trial of Papon suspended



Papon: doctors said he was unfit to stand trial

Paris: The trial of Maurice Papon was suspended yesterday when the ailing former bureaucrat accused of crimes against humanity during the Second World War was taken to hospital suffering from double pneumonia. (Ben Macintyre writes)

M Papon, 87, who stands accused of deporting more than 1,500 Jews to Nazi death camps, was declared unfit for trial after being examined by doctors at a Bordeaux hospital.

The court ruled that hearings would not resume until November 27 at the earliest. The trial was due to be

completed by Christmas, but M Papon's failing health has already caused delays and the legal process is now expected to last well into next year.

The former senior official of the collaborationist Vichy regime has lost 13lb over the past ten days according to his lawyers, who bitterly rejected suggestions that M Papon was feigning illness to avoid difficult cross-examination on his wartime role.

"No one can doubt M Papon's desire to see this trial through to the end... no talk of defence tactics is shameful," Marc Varaut, his lawyer, said.

Centre Left sweeps Italian local elections

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

ITALY'S ruling centre-left coalition won a series of stunning victories in Sunday's local elections, according to results published yesterday with the left-wing mayors of Rome, Venice and Naples returning to power with landslide majorities.

The result was seen as a further boost for the Government of Professor Romano Prodi, and a crushing defeat for the Centre Right led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister, whose leadership of the Opposition is in serious doubt.

La Stampa said that only 18 months after it lost the last general election, the

Centre Right — an increasingly uneasy alliance of Signor Berlusconi's Forza Italia, the "post Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale led by Gianfranco Fini, and two small parties formed from the remnants of the once mighty Christian Democrats — was "falling apart".

Three mayors scored personal triumphs, including Antonio Bassolino, the popular former Communist Mayor of Naples, who won 73 per cent of the vote. Italy's left-wing city administrations have benefited from cash pumped into millennium projects and government job creation schemes. In Venice Massimo Cacciari, the left-wing philosopher, won 65 per cent of the vote and in Rome Francesco Rutelli, the photogenic former Green, won 60 per cent.

Signor Berlusconi said the turnout had been relatively low at 76 per cent, and the the mayors had attracted votes because they were popular rather than because they were left-wing.

But most newspapers echoed Signor Cacciari's assessment that the vote, involving five provincial councils and 421 city and town councils, underlined the collapse of the Right. La Repubblica said Signor Prodi was riding high despite his "austerity budget" to enable Italy to meet the European single currency criteria, and his recent parliamentary pact with the hard Left.

The Centre Right held on to handful of councils, winning Latina, Macerata and Chieti, and may yet defeat the Centre Left in the run-off in Genoa.

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Peggy Lee: *The Christmas Song*
Bing Crosby: *White Christmas; Happy Holidays*
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- Maternity leave and entitlements

Membership of the EU has also created job opportunities for British women. Programmes such as the New Opportunities for Women scheme aim to bring more women into the workplace. The EU has pledged to increase the number of women involved in public decision-making and in senior positions elsewhere. More and more women throughout the UK are using EU advice and funding to set up their own training schemes and networks.

The more that British women are aware of the advantages of EU membership, the more they will be able to benefit from them. We applaud the efforts of the current *Europe 97* campaign to make this information known.

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Candy Atherton MP
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Bombs, bullets and sedatives

Englishwoman Lynne Mastnak is the only practising psychiatrist in Gorazde, a town where the population is grieving, shell-shocked and, sometimes, dangerous. This is her diary

MONDAY

Something has happened in Gorazde. I have the feeling I am on the receiving end of an exponential increase in violence and distress, as if my being a psychiatrist here has suddenly given people permission to go mad. This morning, instead of preparing my seminar, I had to see a young woman who had stopped me in the hospital courtyard two days ago saying she was having a nervous breakdown. The story is a simple one: Elvira is 18 and she and her husband are refugees from a village near Visegrad (now in Republika Srpska). They share two rooms — a bedroom and living room/kitchen — with his sister and her husband. The latter couple sleep in the kitchen, but the two women were fighting all the time, so Elvira decided to set up separate cooking facilities in the bedroom. This led to an almighty family row, with her husband threatening to leave, and Elvira running out and jumping into the Drina. As she sits there with dark shadows under her eyes, wringing her hands, saying she hadn't wanted to die but did not know what to do, I suddenly recognise her. Back in Britain, I had been seeing her counterpart on the emergency wards at least once a week for two years: there'd been a row with parents or boyfriend the night before and she'd reached for a bottle of paracetamol as one clear way of communicating intolerable distress. Here the river is more accessible, and while I can reassure the girl that she is not going mad, and that getting the family together to talk about the conflict might provide a more lasting solution than the injections of diazepam she has been getting from the emergency room, I cannot provide new accommodation or any possibility of a return home.

In the afternoon two social workers interrupted a crucial seminar to ask if I could come and see another 18-year-old who had been holding her family at bay with a shotgun, and threatening to kill herself. When, after some hours, the police had disarmed her, she had bitten them and become

highly disturbed. At the police station we talk and she tells me of her best friend's suicide in front of her a year ago, also with a shotgun, which she replays and replays in her mind. She is certain that she will try to kill herself again if given a chance. My immediate choice is between admission to the intensive care ward in Sarajevo or to a police cell. The police tell me the cells are full and the hospital social worker tells me it is too late for a car to take the "blue route" through Republika Srpska (RS), which means using the "Corridor" over Grebac Mountain, but as yet the hospital ambulance is not back from a journey to Sarajevo. Dr A in the emergency room says it's not her problem. If the girl shoots her family and herself it certainly will be, I shout. The trouble with shouting through my translator, Dzibrila, is that she gets the flak from me, and Dr A just gets Dzibrila's careful moderate tones. Never mind: I got my ambulance and a nurse escort. I cannot raise anyone at the Kosovo

Gorazde did have a psychiatrist once. He left for Austria

hospital in Sarajevo on the phone, so I write a letter and pray they will accept her. Before I came out here, I thought the "Corridor" promised by the Dayton peace plan was a decent highway, like the road to West Berlin, linking the former enclave of Gorazde safely to the Bosnian Croat Federation without going through RS. The reality is four parallel lines on a map and a single track road that is benignly named "Canary" on the floor maps and on little white placards beside the road. The name doesn't seem particularly appropriate for a route that is in large part a dirt track and that switchbacks across mountains, taking four hours to drive in the winter. There is a bus twice a day that goes through RS and takes only two hours, but when Dzibrila was on it a few weeks ago, it was stoned by four youths outside Rogatica, glass shattering by her head. Cars with Gorazde numberplates are often stopped by Serb police who offer the driver the choice between an instant fine and a court appearance. UNHCR has argued that there should be a uniform numberplate for the whole country so that it is



"Here, no one is a bystander, everyone is suffering. I am beginning to understand about the expression of grief in this society"

impossible to identify a driver's origin, but there is no sign of this being implemented.

TUESDAY

Lunch at Médecins sans Frontières, then back to the "counselling flat". This is the small rented apartment I use for seminars, group and family work, and individual work

with children. Once a week, four GPs come from the hospital for a two-hour seminar in psychological medicine. Given their workload, I am both touched and impressed by their persistent interest, but they know that unless the Ministry of Health pulls its finger out, when MSF leaves there will once again be no psychiatrist in Gorazde. The town did have a psychiatrist once. He left for Austria with his two children at the beginning of the war. There is an excess of psychiatrists in Sarajevo, but none of them wants to move here. Part of this is metropolitan snobishness; mostly it is uncertainty about the future of the town.

WEDNESDAY

Word seems to have got round among the Bosnian Army

soldiers that I am OK. Another new one came today, with a painful story of beating and imprisonment. He has already given testimony at The Hague and the story had a slightly rehearsed feel about it. Repeated telling is clearly not enough, however. Before I arrived I was worried that working through an interpreter would be too inhibiting, but my patients tell me they don't mind. Indeed, they prefer the fact that I am an outsider, saying that they could not talk this way to someone local. In the afternoon 11 children come for a bereavement group, which I run with Amira, the local paediatric nurse. Every one of the children has lost at least one parent during the war. At the assessment interviews it was the remaining parents who burst into tears: the children were calm, seri-

ous and attentive. The children seem to love their group, perhaps because it is their only chance to talk like this. Last week we discussed change and loss. Today each child told us exactly who had died, and as we went round the room listening to each solemn declaration — my father was shot on the front line, my mother was hit by a grenade in the bathroom, my father was hit by snipers in the street — it was Amira and I who were crying.

THURSDAY

I am beginning to understand a little more about the expression of grief in this society. One of my patients today was a middle-aged man who lost his 12-year-old daughter three years ago: she was hit by a grenade when playing outside. He has never cried. He believes it would be wrong to do so, as parents crying over children fill the grave with tears, and prevent the child being happy in paradise. Like so many I see, he has terrible chest pain. "This is not an imaginary pain," I tell him, "your heart aches with grief." This makes sense to him, but he still prefers not to talk about it and I do not necessarily think that the insistence on the expression of emotion, beloved by Western psychiatrists, will be healing if it goes against the grain of what he believes to be right. Here, no one is a bystander, everyone is suffering.

MONDAY

Another emergency, another angry soldier. Semir is tall, thin, flushed and articulate. Words pour out: he believes the retreat from the Serb

offensive in 1994 was mishandled by the Bosnian Army and that was why his best friend died; he fantasises about blowing up the café where "those responsible" drink. I hear similar stories from others. With Nedjad it is fury at the local police, who, he feels, had a cushy war while he was on the front line, and now they have jobs and swaggers around in their uniforms. There is one in particular he would like to kill: indeed he had his shotgun with him the other night and thought of using it. This is my other problem — how to assess dangerousness.

They are angry, resentful, irritable, and on drugs of various kinds; most have access to dangerous weapons and have spent the past four years having to kill people in order to survive. I have already sent one obviously psychotic young man to Sarajevo in handcuffs. Nedjad is not psychotic, and I hope that ventilating his feelings once a week, and promising to leave his gun at home in the evenings, is enough for now. Semir, on the other hand, is very ill: besides his anger with his own side, he has developed paranoid ideas about his wife, suspecting her of creeping out every night to have an affair. He imagines noises and hallucinates faces in the house. He knows he is sick, however, and wants to take medication: his wife is supportive and understanding and neither wants him to go to hospital. I have sedated him with large amounts of anti-psychotic drugs, which I pray will help to change his thinking and give us a chance to talk at a more ordinary pace.

What comes across from all these young men is a feeling of waste, betrayal and hopelessness. They feel that nothing is finished, that there is no point in trying to restart their lives, as who knows when war might start again. So they hang out in the local bars drinking brandy and exchanging prescriptions and rumours. I feel as isolated from the political mainstream as the rest of the population. So I listen, and feel quite unable to offer those things that would be really healing: some feeling of security, some sense of a future, some idea that justice has been done.

FRIDAY

Mrs C came in with her niece this morning and kissed me on the cheek! She is an elderly lady whom I first saw three months ago, one of the old and vulnerable whom the war has tipped back into illness. From what I could piece together she had had a manic episode ten years ago followed by a bout of depression. On her first visit to me she was not interested in giving a history, sitting there in her headscarf and cardigan, waving her arm at me in the peculiar gesture older women have here, a cross between beckoning someone to come close and throwing a lasso — and saying repeatedly "I can't sleep. I can't eat, please give me some medicine." I told her that in England patients complain that doctors are too brief and do not listen, and that it was a first for me to be told I was talking too long. This produced a half-smile, and her niece persuaded her to be patient and answer my ques-

tions. Eventually it became clear that she became manic again last autumn when there was news that her son might have been found. He has been missing for four years, since going to the city for food, falling asleep on the journey and getting captured by the Serbs. The hopes of his return proved false and she became ill and was in hospital in Sarajevo. They put her on anti-psychotic medication, but she got very depressed and also seemed to be suffering from the restlessness that such drugs can cause. So I stopped them and started her on anti-depressants. The restlessness has gone, she is now eating, sleeping, and working round the house again. She is very pleased with me, although still not interested in talking.

The World Bank is building



Evacuation from Sarajevo

35 community-based rehabilitation centres for victims of the conflict all around the country. Gorazde will have one and it looks very impressive on paper, although no provision has been made for salaries, so it remains unclear who will staff it. The single intervention that would have the biggest impact on mental health would be implementation of the Dayton agreement: freedom of movement would not only mean that I could get my patients to hospital in safety and that the staff necessary for a decent community mental health service could move to Gorazde, but it would also jump-start the town's economy and enable a return to normal life. The fact of the matter is that Gorazde is under a social and economic siege almost as effective as the previous military siege.

Seka, our programme officer, who has lived here throughout the four-year siege, calls Gorazde and its surrounding pocket of land "the appendix". It is exactly the right shape, has only a vestigial significance for the body politic and is easy to cut off if it gets inflamed. Yet on clear days the Drina turns its own peculiar vivid blue. You can walk across the pedestrian bridge in the centre of the town as children run past you on their way to school. There are freshly painted buildings and young people sitting on café terraces. There are men fishing and an old woman with goats on the riverbank. It is easy to understand why local people still believe this a town worth saving.

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The shame of being a luvvie on the dole

Tough benefit rules are forcing 'resting' thespians into roles that are anything but dignified. Grace Bradberry reports

As *The Full Monty* continues to break box office records, one section of the population is not laughing: unemployed actors. For them, a nude cabaret routine is not an escapist fantasy but a gruesome possibility — the next time the phone rings it could be the local jobcentre offering something similar.

Signing on has always been a fall-back for the acting profession. Now this situation is under intense scrutiny and actors are being pressurised into taking what they consider is unsuitable work.

Eva Marie Bryer, a 28-year-old actress now appearing in the Channel 4 series *Underworld*, is among those who feel increasingly vulnerable. After five successful years in the business, she has worked only three times this year. Under the current rules, she can restrict her job search to her own profession for the first 13 weeks only. After that, if the jobcentre alerts her to a vacancy, she must apply and will generally be expected to accept the job. So while actresses pray for their agents to phone, they dread a call from the jobcentre — particularly if it has a vacancy in "their field".

In July this year, Miss Bryer received such a call. Would she please come to an interview for modelling work? "I thought, 'Oh no, my agent's going to have a fit,'" she says. She was told the job was as an extra for photography. No one could tell her what the pictures were for.

The interview took place at Islington Jobcentre, where the photographer had installed himself behind a screen. "There were loads of other people there and we were all herded upstairs, where we had to fill out a form. It asked us our age, height and so on, but the main question in it, as far as I was concerned, was whether I would object to being photographed nude or partially nude."

"I knew that if I put 'Yes, I do object', I was not going to get this job. In any normal situation for me as an actress, it would have been a straightforward choice. But in this case there was an extra issue: if I put 'no' and didn't get the job, would I then be cut off from the dole? In the end I put that I did

object, and hoped and prayed that they wouldn't stop the payments." Miss Bryer was not the only applicant to have a problem with nude modelling. "We were all given a great big number, and one by one we had a Polaroid taken," she says. "After a while, the photographer came out and said, 'Listen, everybody's asking about the nudity. This is a kosher job, it's for a German firm's annual calendar.'"

The idea was to have people coming back from a nudist camp in a taxi. "It will be very tastefully done," he said. "No hairy bits."

"We all tried to laugh. Some guy put his hand up and said, 'What's the partially nude bit?' thinking he

'It turned out to be a gay cabaret act — and I am not a gay man'

might be able to do that. But it was more than a matter of principle. How an actress is viewed makes an enormous difference to the work she is offered. "This would be ten steps down the ladder," says Miss Bryer.

The following day, she called the jobcentre to ask whether she had been chosen. "The man said he had not heard anything, I said, 'Well, I'm not really surprised.' He said, 'Oh, why's that?' 'Did you know we were asked to be photographed nude?' He said he would phone me back."

There is no suggestion that jobcentre staff deliberately sent clients for nude modelling work. Indeed, they firmly believed that the job did not involve nudity. Miss Bryer was, apparently, unnecessarily alarmed by a standard form used by the photographer. She concedes that she was never pressurised into agreeing to nude photography. Her complaint is that the job had not been vetted properly, and that it was unclear how far she was expected to go, as it were,

in order to retain her benefit. In the future, however, Miss Bryer may soon lose her right to the dole altogether. At the weekend it was revealed that Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, is considering ending the special arrangements whereby actors are classified as self-employed by the Inland Revenue but as 'employed earners' by the Benefits Agency.

This special status allows actors to offset their expenses against tax, but also to pay higher rate National Insurance contributions. If this right is abolished they will only qualify for means tested benefits, not for the job seekers' allowance.

The previous Government dropped similar proposals after Equity, the actors' union, argued that the Treasury would lose revenue if actors and their employers paid lower-rate contributions.

For actresses like Miss Bryer, the changes are a worrying prospect. "It's a nightmare," she says. "It will mean that anyone who starts out with family money will be fine, but for anybody else it will really be difficult. I'm panicked by it."

Whether the proposals are implemented or not, Miss Bryer already feels increasing pressure to take work that is potentially damaging to her career. She is not the only one to have faced such situations.

Sandy Rees, an agent with the London theatrical company Ken McReddie, was horrified when one of her clients was approached by her local benefits office and asked to apply for work as an extra. "She is an established actress, someone that people would recognise," says Ms Rees. "There is no question that for her, working as an extra would be extremely detrimental to her career."

"She was asked to send in photographs which would be forwarded to the relevant people. There was no way of knowing whether she would be selected. If she was, she would be working for £60 a day — but that is not really the point. Not only would the assignment damage her career, but the whole arrangement was unethical — it turned out that the job was being advertised by an agency in Southend, which would be collecting a fee. 'I called the man she had dealt with and explained that taking this job would damage her



Eva Marie Bryer, sent by her jobcentre to a modelling interview, was asked if she would object to being photographed nude

chances of getting real work. On top of that, it would be through another agency, which would mean her breaking her agreement with us. I got a very sympathetic ear, and nothing came of the whole thing."

Such instances are common, according to Virginia Wilde, the tax welfare benefits officer at Equity. "Since October last year, when the jobseeker's allowance came in, their powers have got much stronger," she says. "Officials can always say, 'Here's a vacancy, you have to go for it.'"

Most actors and actresses will not talk publicly about their experiences, for fear of harming their status in the eyes of casting directors. "It can be embarrassing, unpleasant and horrible, so the people willing to publicise it are very rare," says Ms Wilde. "You don't want people to get wind of this sort of thing."

And it doesn't only happen to

women. One 38-year-old black actor, who describes his local jobcentre as "quite sympathetic", was humiliated to be put forward for a job which "they really thought would be suitable".

The potential employer specified that the applicant must have singing and movement skills. "It turned out to be a gay cabaret act. The job involved wearing leather and singing risqué songs, accompanied by gestures of a sexual nature."

"I said to the group's organiser, 'I don't think this is going to suit me at all. It's obviously intended for a gay actor and I'm not gay.' I asked if he would call the jobcentre to say that I was unsuitable. He agreed."

The future is likely to hold more such encounters. "I have a degree, I trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, I've worked for the RSC and the

National Theatre. But I'm also a black actor and it's increasingly difficult to find work at my age. My CV is full of work as a mugger, a young taxi driver and so on. The name Winston appears no end. I'm not complaining. I was very fortunate to get so many jobs playing hoodlums. But while other actors would have gone on to play doctors and lawyers, those parts are not there for me. The chap that would get those parts would be white, grey-haired and middle-aged. That is what people expect, even though my local hospital has lots of doctors who look like me."

It would be unfair to lay the blame for such incidents entirely at the door of jobcentre employees. Decisions on which jobs to advertise are left to their discretion. Earlier this year, an MP tabled a parliamentary question after one of her constituents complained at being put forward for what they considered to be an immoral job.

Yet despite an amendment to the guidelines issued to Employment Service employees, the position remains far from clear.

Paragraph 200 begins: "Experience has shown that vacancies in the modelling and personal services sector can, on occasion, cause embarrassment and distress to our clients, give rise to complaints and bring the Employment Service into disrepute." However, the next line states: "Legal advice indicates that arbitrary choices cannot be made as to whose vacancies to service and whose not."

The advice that follows includes the telling line: "Ensure that details of the type of organisation are displayed on the vacancy card (ie, escort agency, massage parlour, etc.)." If they are in doubt, jobcentre employees are advised not to advertise the vacancy.

It would be understandable if they were left confused by the rather woolly guidance.

Why men can't be just good friends

Philip Delves Broughton was labelled an Aids risk by bankers who think cohabiting males must be gay



Boys together was once clean fun: now it's sleaze and disease

Until Barclays Bank entered my life, no one implied that I might be a homosexual. Granted, an excess of maternal affection may mean that I would never have made Hemingway feel like a big girl's blouse. But gay? Not unless there is some as yet unexplored corner of my psyche waiting to surprise me.

Barclays became a factor when I decided to buy a place to live in London. My choices were limited: a tiny flat in a good area; a larger flat in a lousy area; doubling up with a friend and buying a decent-sized place in a decent area. I chose the third option, to pool resources with an old friend from school and university. He is unmarried, but he has rarely been without a girlfriend and is about as gay

as Casanova. The bank, however, was not so sure. "Two chaps buying a place together eh?" they thought. "Fishy."

Lester, from Barclays Insurance, who wears a ring on his left hand engraved with his initials, telephoned to say that in order to get life insurance to cover our mortgage, we would have to take some special tests.

What tests exactly? "HIV tests," he said.

Was this standard practice?

"No. It's because you are two men buying together."

If one of us was a woman, all would be well. Two men, however, and we are what they call "a risk". We are a risk not because we might be two ragingly heterosexual men who engage in non-stop, unprotected sex with a chocolate box of exotic

partners, or because we might be maintaining heroin from second-hand needles, but rather because we might be gay.

It was no good getting self-righteous with Lester. The housebuying process was already too far gone and we needed his money.

Lester gave me the telephone number of a mobile doctor and the first name of a nurse, Sarah. When I called her, Sarah asked: "When would it be convenient for you and your partner to come in for your HIV saliva test?"

We had gone from being two old friends who thought

that two salaries rather than one would carry more clout in the overheated London property market, via the frankly limp-wristed mortgage division of a high street bank and suspicions of a man called Lester to being called "partners" by the nurse at an HIV clinic.

In the eyes of the red-bloods and yahoos of Barclays Premier Banking, we might as well have been Liberace and T. E. Lawrence asking for a pair of one-way tickets to Tangier.

It is lucky we did not stop off along the way to look at wallpaper swatches or else

who knows what further pre-suppositions might have been made.

More irritating than the presumptions and suspicions, however, were the possible implications.

For many types of insurance, companies ask applicants whether or not they have previously had an HIV test. Just admitting that you have had one, even if it was negative, can push up your premium on the ground that if you needed to have a test, you could be a risk.

Consequently, many people have these tests done anonymously. When a bank demands the test, however, it becomes impossible to have it anonymously.

The test itself was straightforward enough. I sucked on

a papery wad that was then taken off for analysis. Even for someone with a less than orgasmic sex life, the wait for the all-clear is a nervous one.

When the results came through the next day, however, no one bothered to telephone me. The bank's doctor made only one call, to my "partner", to say that both our tests were negative and the mortgage could go ahead.

Lester would probably have deployed his evil manoeuvre even if I had offered to engage in full-blown (but protected) coitus with a female receptionist on the floor of Barclays insurance division to prove my lower risk status.

Now he has his evidence, however. I shall stick on some Mahler, slide on my mules, pour myself a Pink Panther and drink to him.

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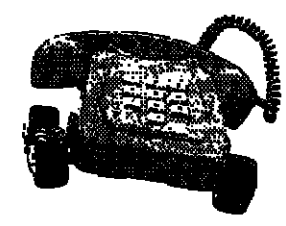
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Why we all must pay for Oxbridge

The elite need public money too, says Anatole Kaletsky

Socialism is the language of priorities. This was one of the favourite slogans of Aneurin Bevan, the Labour left-winger who turned out to be the most successful minister in the post-war Attlee Government and whose centenary is celebrated by Britain's dwindling band of Socialist stalwarts this week. Tony Blair, as we all know, has consigned Socialism to the dustbin. But has he also forgotten Bevan's insight that to govern is to choose? Choosing among the desirable uses of public money is the essence of all active government; setting the right priorities matters more to believers in the positive, creative powers of government than it does to apostles of laissez faire.

This question of priorities will arise in a particularly emotive and surprising manner in the coming weeks, when the Government decides whether to stop a special payment of £35 million which it makes each year to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. This Oxbridge fee, which supports the two universities' unusual system of personal tuition in semi-independent residential colleges, is a drop in the ocean of the Government's £320 billion public expenditure budget. Yet it could become a defining issue for Mr Blair.

To put the matter at its starkest, if Mr Blair eliminates or suppresses the unique characteristics of these two world-renowned universities, he will show that he misunderstands the balance between collective action and economic individualism which underlies his entire political project.

One reason for this has been much discussed. Experience shows that great intellectual advances are most often made in centres of excellence which bring together the best minds in a wide range of subjects. (Think back to the Florence of the Medici or the Athens of Pericles).

There is nothing mysterious about this principle of concentration. It is simply an example of what economists call "increasing returns to scale". This principle also explains the natural clustering of many non-academic economic activities, ranging from finance in the City of London to computer research in California and (dare I mention it?) racing-car production in the Midlands.

In sum, if the Government's only objective were to maximise the intellectual payoff from every pound it spends on universities, it would do better to concentrate even more of its limited resources on Oxford, Cambridge and a handful of other unquestioned centres of academic excellence in Britain, forcing other universities to tighten their belts even harder.

But surely no Labour Government could contemplate such a policy of giving more money to the richest universities, while taking from the poorer ones and their students?

Here we must return to Nye Bevan's priorities. Having allowed student numbers to

grow by 40 per cent with no increase in funding, the Government will clearly have to spend more money on the whole university system, once the present cap on public spending expires in April 1999. But where will this money come from? The answer is equally clear: it must come from a combination of higher taxes (perhaps in the guise of the new student loans) and cutbacks in other departments, ranging from Defence to Social Security. But how can a Labour Government channel scarce resources to universities, which means subsidising the education of the rich and the middle class?

Most present-day Labour politicians are totally floored by this question. They know in their bones that the Government ought to support higher education, science, culture and other "elite" activities. But how can they justify spending which favours the middle class? To Nye Bevan, I suspect, the answer would have been perfectly obvious.

The provision of cultural "public goods" such as education is one of the main functions of government. The Government's ability to provide these goods to society

A State serving only the poor would be disaster

more effectively than individuals could buy them through the market is among the main reasons why middle-class voters are prepared to support a strong, active Government — and pay for it through their taxes. Public money spent on universities (or on opera) is a redistribution to the relatively rich. But such cultural spending is not only beneficial to society as a whole; it is also a necessary condition for retaining the commitment of the relatively rich to the entire system of taxation and public spending. The distributive effects of government activity must be judged not at the level of each individual programme but by the impact of the tax and public spending system as a whole on the gap between the rich and the poor. If the Government never spends on the middle class, it will soon lose its ability to take from the middle class.

As American experience shows, the middle class will gradually turn against the very idea of government if they feel they are getting nothing from government except tax demands.

For politicians such as Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher there was nothing better than to present government as no more than a funnel, which collects the money of the middle class and pours it straight into the maw of the poor and the unemployed. But for Tony Blair, who passionately believes in government's ability to build a stronger society, a State which is seen to serve nobody but the poor would be a disaster.

For Mr Blair, there should be no higher priority than to show that a strong, competent Government is of service to all — and that includes even the Oxbridge elite.



A land fit for Neros

Our countryside is being blighted while the Government fiddles over Formula One

I have had a happy daydream lately in which a gruff, tough, stoutish, golden-hearted old Labour figure of vaguely 1930s vintage knocks out the dot from his pipeful of Old Navy shag, claps the quivering TV journalist on the shoulder with enough force to set his swivel-chair revolving, and says with a bluff manly bark of laughter: "Hey, lad, steady pop. Working man like his flag, and working man like his Formula One, and there's an end to it. Oi, Mandelson, lad! My coat. I can't stop here arguing, there's health and education and crime to be sorted out by tea."

No such luck. Instead we get days of cant and waffle and evasion over the three dull subjects in the Universe: fag advertising, motor-racing, and whether political parties should admit who gives them money. Of course they should: end of story. Nor am I terribly interested in whether Tony Blair has successfully convinced everybody he is a "straight guy" or whether, as one pundit portentously put it, "the petals really are off now".

Who cares? Who wants bloody petals on a Prime Minister? We have got this Government for five years, so rather than analyse whether we love it enough we should urge and goad it to get on with what needs doing. The Formula One affair is, frankly, the legislative equivalent of rearranging the cutlery drawer while the house is on fire. What about resources for education, the newly published plans to dismantle the NHS internal market, and the debate on welfare provision currently raging between Harriet Harman and Frank Field? These things will change lives, the lives of people who are vulnerable and poor and have few choices. Faffing about with tobacco advertising — if it affects anyone — affects only people with freedom and money enough to make the choice to kipper their own lungs. Why are they such a high priority?

Today there is another issue, equally likely to be obscured by useless politicking. Michael Meacher, admittedly not the showiest of ministers, has promised to toughen up the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. He is preparing a new Bill, "but of course I do have to compete with other ministers" (translation: not a hope).

This is his response to a lobby of 22 groups, from Friends of the Earth to the Marine Conservation Society,

who have proposed a Wildlife Charter to give more protection to heathland, estuaries, grassland and moors and to enforce remedy for damage and to make it less financially desirable for farmers to plough grassland and grub out hedges.

Yes, that still happens: these things may sound like old battles, fought and won ten years ago, but they are not. The battle for sympathy did well, so that every schoolchild is at some stage forcibly taken pond-dipping; but meanwhile they are still rooding out hedges, spraying herbicides and pesticides and ploughing up ancient grassland.

The organisations make the point that it is not only sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) that count, but the wider scene: there is absolutely no point protecting a marsh fritillary if you allow its source of food to be destroyed. Anyway, even SSSIs are not safe: in five years from 1991 one in five of them was damaged. So what hope for the next rung down — ESAs, or environmentally sensitive areas, where farmers can get a small subsidy for not wrecking the joint?

Plainly, there is no hope at all for bits of green land with no fancy initials: according to the last Government's made-up figures (adopted zombie-like, unquestioned, by the present crew) this is where we shall build half of the 4.4 million new homes which will be "needed" because of the forecast rate of family break-up.

The new charter is moderate and urgent and uncomfortably well supported by fact. We are losing our native wildlife, animal and plant species are dying for lack of food, or because their wetland is destroyed by careless extraction by water companies which find it cheaper than fixing leaky pipes. They are being crowded out by invasive, alien crops or concrete over. Governments and local authorities pushed for cash and with an eye on "planning gain" are almost invariably a pushover for any developer who makes noises about

green values and "sensitive landscaping". Even when a landowner is found to have done massive illegal damage it is very rare indeed for the culprit to be made to restore it. Sometimes, in any case, it is impossible.

As for the way we treat the sea, don't even let me start on that or you will be stuck here all day with me raving about sand-seals and puffins and seal mortality and the proposal to use the most fragile part of the East Coast as an offshore oil-transfer site. Everywhere in this issue you find muddle and evasion and lack of commitment and unregarded ministers and chronic short-termism.

There are Third World countries which have more coherent environmental policies than we do. I suppose it wouldn't matter if this was some flat, dreary polder or monotonous prairie, the kind of landscape where you need save only a few square miles to get the general idea of what the rest was like. But we happen to live on a precious jewel. Sailing round it, as we once did in one summer, you gasp at the variety: from marsh and sandling heaths to chalk downlands, granite cliffs, jagged limestone and deep forests. And that is just the edge. Trek inland and we have quiet meadows, wild moors, holy woodland, turning rivers, brooding lakes and broads. To value them you need not have your own species: varied and quirky to start with, the landscape has accepted centuries of human husbandry to become even more diverse. Its shapes and vistas offer a valuable, visible history lesson about the development and endeavours of man in nature.

Man's interference, though, was previously held in check by his capacities. To live and eat we had to change the face of the land: but because we were weak we did it respectfully, with an eye to natural regeneration. The wildlife thrived on this, existing in cosy symbiosis with the farmer and herdsman (think of

the miraculous, almost extinct harvest mouse). The Norfolk Broads and the Somerset Levels, intricately made, enriched as much as they destroyed. It is only in a short eyblink of history that we have grown so powerful with our concrete and our chemicals that for the first time there is a pressing need for us to show mercy towards nature. Most people sense that. Even ten years ago, surveys already showed 87 per cent of the British public worried about the decline of wildlife. And yes, Labour, the urban poor have a right to worry, too. Inner-city primary schools have plenty of small children anxious that by the time they get to go on a country holiday, there might be no more hedgerows.

The worst thing is that there is no political constituency for this unease. Hence Swamps who prefer tunnels to ballot boxes. The Tories, traditional guardians of the countryside through the medium of beet-faced squires, deliberately let that root die in the 1980s. Baroness Thatcher, it was only too plain, never liked untidy-looking countryside, nor spared a kind word for a homeless toad. But Labour doesn't care either, not deep down. The manifesto said sullenly "We will ensure greater protection for wildlife", in much the same way as a child says "I'll get the homework done", but there is no sign of any engagement of ideas on the subject. Bet you Peter Mandelson wouldn't cross the road to give a piglet an even break.

Face it: they don't care. Look at the unthinking acceptance of the "need" for greenfield building. Look at the sulky, unstudied way in which the Foster fuchunting Bill was first supported, then half-dropped by the Government, for reasons connected more with the Countryside Rally and the obduracy of the Lords than with any real contemplation of the complex, muddy, smelly, frosty realities of a winter morning, and an atavistic rural hunting community. I am not saying that Labour has no principles, just that it has no instinct for this particular issue. Somebody has to green the party up.

Perhaps this lobby will help. Otherwise, I can think of worse plays for William Hague than getting his wellies on and heading out into the meadows and marshes to restore the Tories' lost credentials as guardians of the land.

Libby Purves

The Right stuff

I KNOW that in this giving age Tony Blair wants to talk to everyone, but does that have to include those who were once at the Fascist end of the political spectrum? Max Mosley, son of Sir Oswald and Diana Milford, dropped in at No 10 for a friendly chat with the Prime Minister on October 16 this year alongside his business partner, Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One boss. He has also personally donated at least £3,000 to the Labour Party. But, although Mr Mosley happened not to mention the detail during an interview with Simon Sebag Montefiore in last weekend's *Sunday Times*, I can now reveal that he was close to being a *gauleiter* in his father's Fascist organisation.

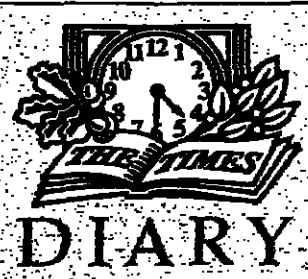
The Mosley scion, who is president of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, motor racing's governing body, put his name forward in the 1964 general election as a candidate for the Union Movement, a postwar version of the British Union of Fascists and the highest profile anti-immigration group of its day. Despite admitting "it's obvious, knowing what we know now, that it was wrong", further details from Mosley Jr's CV make interesting reading. In 1961, as a 21-year-old Oxford undergraduate, he was fined for obstructing a policeman while he tried to break up an anti-apartheid demonstration in Trafalgar Square. The following year he was quoted by a *Daily Herald* reporter,

A Right pair: Diana and son

who went undercover at the movement's meetings, as saying: "In our kind of politics one needs to be as good at a punch-up as talking to a university professor." After the mid-Sixties he renounced his politics, but obviously still has a taste for the corridors of power.

Hamming it

THE reports of the death of old Labour are greatly exaggerated.



When John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, had some ecotopes round for lunch last week, there was not a cherry tomato, let alone a rocket leaf in sight. Instead, his guests were offered butties made of sliced, white bread and industrial-strength margarine, filled with processed ham and cheese. When one of the visitors complained that he could not get his mouth round the ministerial fare, Mr Prescott beamed: "I like doorsteps." Boor, however, was not on the menu.

● EVADING Tube fares, Lembit Opik has learnt, can be a costly business. Yesterday found the fresh-faced Lib Dem MP travelling by rail from his Montgomeryshire constituency to Westminster. "I asked on the train for a ticket that would take me to Westminster station, not just to King's Cross," he

says. "But when I tried to get off there they told me it was invalid and asked for a £10 penalty fare." Opik refused to part with a penny, filling in a form instead. "I'll be tackling John Prescott about this," he growled.

Holy wrath

THE latest tome by William Oddie, the high priest of family values, has opened a fresh schism within the Roman Catholic Church. Charles Wooley, Cardinal Basil Hume's senior aide, took



such exception to *The Roman Option*, detailing the conversion of prominent Anglicans such as Ann Widdecombe and John Gummer to Catholicism, that he gatecrashed the launch party.

With the Holy Spirit coursing through his veins, the cardinal's sidekick headed straight for Oddie and proceeded to abuse him publicly. "He confronted me in a very belligerent manner but it became apparent that he hadn't read the book," recalls Oddie.

● The Prince of Wales cannot seem to escape his run of bad luck. A few hours before his 49th birthday party at Highgrove was about to begin last Saturday evening, news came of the death of his close friend Lady Teyron. The party went ahead anyway but, even though supper was organically grown, spirits remained rather sombre.

Bunker shots

STEPHEN DILLANE, the toast of the town after his appearance in *Welcome to Sarajevo*, released this week, almost ruined an earlier career because of a passion for golf. Before breaking into drama, he was employed as a reporter on the august suburban publication, *The Croydon Advertiser*. "He was best known for his golfing prowess," his



Making news: Dillane

former news editor tells me: "He had a habit of sneaking off to Purley golf course for a few hours at lunchtime." Obviously, it never proved a serious handicap.

● IT WAS not a good time for Tourism Minister Tom Clarke to win a free week's holiday in Jamaica. "Will someone please tell Peter Mandelson I've put the ticket back in the draw," pleaded Clarke after he won the raffle at the Guild of British Travel Writers' dinner.

JASPER GERARD

Phoenix rises in Windsor

Marcus Binney enjoys a quibble with perfection

THE restoration of Windsor Castle is a triumph, giving Britain the counterpart of the reconstructed palaces of Leningrad, or the newly furnished interiors at Versailles. Twenty, thirty or even 40 years ago such a restoration would have been cautious and underplayed. No longer. This time we have the full monty, opulence not seen in the royal palaces for a century.

But while much is inspired — even flawless — there are some elements which are questionable, bizarre and crude. The new hammerbeam roof of St George's Hall is stupendous, turning a room with the proportions of a railway carriage into a majestic ceremonial hall full of the trappings of chivalry.

What lets it down are the lights, rigidly vertical and set close to the walls, they cast shadows as unfortunate as those on a human face lit from below by candlelight. Apparently they can be adjusted, but much more light needs to be shone diagonally across the room, not just straight up and down.

Giles Downes, the architect who won the commission for all new work after the fire, treated Gothic as a decorative style to be plundered, with all the relish of Horace Walpole at Strawberry Hill. His new doors at the end of St George's Hall present a spider's web of Gothic arches. The bronze lock cases, inset with a grille of interlaced flowers and tassels, have handles beautifully fashioned as roses wound round with dragons.

"We have a lot of St Georges in this hall," I thought we needed a few dragons," says Mr Downes. On the gallery, more dragons hold spears: a little Disneyish perhaps, but marvellously lithe. Behind, in a wonderfully theatrical gesture, the King's Champion appears on a life-size charger in magnificent armour made for the Elizabethan courtier Sir Christopher Hatton.

Downes's tour de force is a jewel of a circular flying staircase. The oak balustrade branch like trees and it is hard to work out how they are put together until he explains they are actually cut from solid panels of oak, sacrificing much of the wood in the process.

Downes repeats the trick in the new Lantern Lobby, a glorious umbrella vault with echoes of William Beckford's Fonthill Abbey, and an even more elaborate balustrade of two overlapping branching layers.

Again I find the lighting awkward and curse the window filled with pallid, tinted and frosted glass, such as might have been used in a church restoration of the 1950s. It is in the new chapel that Mr Downes becomes positively bizarre. The new vault is like a fishnet stretched over a dinosaur skeleton. Nor is the colour scheme of stone-coloured walls and blue ceiling much better.

Yet all this makes for better preparation for the explosion of colour and richness that follows in the three state rooms.

The Crimson Drawing Room, awash with lustrous red silk on every wall and chair, gilt furniture and gilt plasterwork, is a postcard hymn to the glory of monarchy. Hugh Roberts, the director of the Royal Collections, who masterminded these rooms, says the aim was that George IV should "instantly recognise them". The new inlaid parquet floor in birch and ebony rivals the best marble but is already suffering from scratches.

Beyond, the Green Drawing Room is ravishing, with emerald green silk that glows like malachite and superbly burnished water gilding. On the doors, prized carved wood trophies from Carlton House gleam like ornolu bronze.

Some 20,000 books of gold, 25 leaves to a book, were used. Not to mention curtains weighted down with fringes, braids and tassels. It's madly extravagant, but like Pavarotti it transforms the whole occasion.

What makes the rooms ultimately is the lighting. On the dullest of November mornings, they are glowing. Chandeliers are ablaze with candles (tiny electric bulbs producing a light as subtle as actual flame). Wall lights and candelabra, where each bulb has its own little shade, produce a superbly festive effect.

No easily visible trace has been left of the fire damage. Neither surviving plasterwork nor parts salvaged from the fire and reincorporated, can be readily distinguished from new work. The desire, superbly fulfilled, has been to create a seamless robe. It recalls the story of a man who took a plate to the restorer: "Do you want it mended the English way or the Chinese?" he was asked. The English way is to mend it invisibly, the Chinese to mark the break with gold leaf because the break is part of the history of the plate. I feel the achievement would be all the more recognisable for leaving a few small panels, highlighting original detail, and finishes that escaped damage in the fire and showing how well the quality has been matched.

Less of an achievement is the reopening of huge lengths of vaulted medieval undercrofts, unseen and partitioned off for years.

The state rooms of Windsor reopen on Saturday, December 27. They are a must, and all the better for having a few elements that we can quibble at.

Phoenix rises in Windsor
Marcus Binney enjoys a quibble with perfection



POWER TO PARENTS

Lessons from the league tables for all parties to consider

The school league tables published by the Government today represent transition. The results themselves were the last achieved under a Conservative Government. The methods by which they have been compiled and presented have been altered this year by David Blunkett. Both parties have much to say about them and will point to the Tories will note the continued improvement in the overall scores and the striking success of many grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges. This, William Hague will doubtless say, serves as a vindication of Conservative reforms — such as league tables themselves — that were initially opposed by the Labour Party.

Mr Blunkett is likely to concentrate his fire on the future. The tables that we publish in our supplement and — in even more detail — on the Internet contain valuable additional information. The introduction of a four-year formula and an improvement index will allow parents to make a more informed assessment. The incorporation of vocational qualifications into these numbers is also a rational development. The Government's plan for an extra "value added" element may prove rather ambitious. The contentious and complicated decisions that this will involve may keep the statisticians in secure employment but are less likely to enlighten the average citizen.

The Department for Education might find its time better spent on a more basic methodological matter. From their beginning, these tables have been centred on the proportion of pupils achieving five high-grade passes in the GCSE examination. This appears to have persuaded schools to place their efforts in ensuring that borderline candidates achieve the maximum number of passes. As a consequence, it is alleged, both the brightest and the least able children have received less attention. A switch in system to one where each pass carries with it a number of points — the average total of which then became the key figure — would

alter incentives. Whatever their imperfections, school league tables have been an invaluable innovation and one that this Government has been wise to acknowledge. The continuing resistance of teaching unions does not suggest that academic performance is their highest priority. Mr Blunkett will doubtless be denounced by them but should see that as a compliment. A government that destroyed or diluted this annual exercise would have no credibility on the question of standards.

Core principles have emerged that should be the basis of policy. The first is accountability, in the shape of accessible information on all aspects of school life. The second is autonomy, in the sense that individual institutions should have the maximum possible freedom from their local education authority. The third is diversity in structure rather than the Stalinist singularity of 1970s comprehensives. Fourth comes flexibility in terms of admissions procedure. Fifth is the specialisation that schools should be allowed to nurture and then advertise as distinctive academic emphasis. Those schools that enjoyed the highest aggregate results — and the group of more than 200 schools that have continually improved over the four years — consistently display such features.

The Tories will take this as an affirmation of their stance in office. Labour will doubtless claim that, in practice, the Conservatives were concerned with a small number of children in affluent areas and thus obsessed with selection. Neutrals must come to their own conclusions. The challenge is now what will be done over this Parliament. If Labour acts to spread the core principles that seem to have established themselves in some cases, then it will deserve its own legacy. If it does not, education could quickly re-emerge as a key Conservative issue. All of this will be fought over data that is openly available. Information is power: and that power now rightly rests with parents.

BLOOD ON THE NILE

Fundamentalist terrorism feeds on frustration and repression

The massacre of at least 69 tourists in Luxor is one of the bloodiest crimes ever perpetrated by Islamist activists. The gunmen who sprayed British, Japanese, Swiss and German tourists with machinegun fire killed in one bloody morning more than twice as many foreigners as all those murdered in the random attacks since Muslim activists began their terror campaign five years ago. A further 24 were wounded in events as horrific as they are destabilising. The uncomprehending grief of relatives is matched only by the shame of ordinary Egyptians that a country that was the cradle of civilisation should now be associated with such barbarity.

The attack, the second murderous assault on tourists in two months, is probably the work of the al-Gama'a al-Islamiya, the underground organisation dedicated to the overthrow of President Mubarak and the destruction of Egypt's secular society. Since the assassination of President Sadat, Egypt has fought a long-running battle with militants, hanging dozens of "martyrs" who have been convicted of terrorism by military courts. Police raids, summary trials, the use of torture and intensified security around all the tourist sites have been matched by legislation banning dozens of extremist groups and cracking down on religious fundamentalism. A year ago it seemed as though the most extreme groups had been defeated, their leaders imprisoned, executed or subdued. Tourism, the lifeblood of Egypt's fragile economy, had recovered and even surpassed previous totals. But Hydra-headed, the terrorist monster has returned.

The challenge to President Mubarak is formidable. Despite frequent reassurances on security by tourist spokesmen, the authorities have repeatedly been outwitted

and outgunned. The police have bungled anti-terrorist operations and their credibility is at an all-time low. Assyut, a Nile town between Cairo and Luxor with a history of bloody feuding, is now a no-go area for foreigners. A bewildered public sees Egypt drifting into a downward spiral, with the terrifying example of Algeria as a reminder of how bad things could get.

President Mubarak will undoubtedly order a fresh crackdown in response to yesterday's attack. But his uncompromising line is increasingly difficult to enforce. For militant Islam is taking full advantage of the frustration throughout the Arab world with the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process, the growing gap between rich and poor, unemployment, the absence of any legitimate channels through which to express political opposition and the corruption that has accompanied privatisation and economic reform. Throughout the Middle East anti-Americanism is again raising its head, riding on the back of anti-Israel rhetoric and a general anger against the West. Saddam Hussein's renewed challenge to the West is applauded by millions; his incitement to target Western interests is echoed by extremists as a call to arms against Westerners.

Few in the Middle East know how to defeat terrorism. Two enlightened kings — King Hassan of Morocco and King Hussein of Jordan — are attempting, through democracy, to isolate the extremists by giving legitimate opposition a political voice: both have just held elections which have demonstrated their countries' political maturity. Terrorism, however, feeds on frustration and repression. When it vents its anger so terribly on the innocent, governments must look beyond their security forces to deeper causes of malaise.

STREETWISE BIRDS

Pigeons are fine specimens of the survival of the unfittest

They are poisoning pigeons in the park, and not just as the refrain in Tom Lehrer's song. His was a wildly politically incorrect fantasy, and Lehrer's black humour is said to appeal more to the British than to his countrymen. But as our New York correspondent reports, a serial aerial killer really is poisoning the city's pigeons in flocks.

Bird-lovers are concerned about the tortures of death by pesticide. A spokesman offers an analysis appropriate for Woody Allen's backyard: "This is someone who truly hates pigeons and could be a very disturbed person." And there is sentiment for one of the few species that not only survives but thrives in the street jungles of New York.

For pigeons are the shabby grey unemployables of city life. The gentle and plump birds have an urban strut and bob of the head as characteristic as those of commuters in the rush hour. Their swirling flocks are a tourist attraction from Trafalgar Square to the Piazza San Marco. They have been semi-domesticated by man from temple sacrifices to gifts for lovers and as provisions in pies and doves. The athletic among them are the poor man's racehorses and can fly hundreds of miles. And they are not as cheap as all that. In July 1992 a cock pigeon called Invincible Sport was sold for £10,800 to Ms Louella Pigeon World of Leicestershire. But the street pigeons of New York and

London are not such superstars of the breed. The inscription of the verse by Emma Lazarus on the Statue of Liberty could apply to them also: "Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore." They are composed of a bewildering array of cross-breeds of domesticated strains, all of them ultimately descended from the European rock dove. Street pigeons are greedy, dirty and streetwise. They know how to take the Tube or the subway. And when a Londoner started to kidnap the pigeons in Trafalgar Square for sale to restaurants, the public health authorities gave warning that their flesh was so polluted that it was poisonous.

Like Londoners then, many New Yorkers seem happy to see dead pigeons on their streets. There is no danger of an ornithographic catastrophe, however. Like rats, grey squirrels and now Canada geese, street pigeons are as urbanised as New Yorkers or Londoners. They may not look like it. But they have become magnificent engines for street living. Others will flock to fill any gaps made by the pigeon poisoner. The only way to rid the city of street pigeons would be to clear the streets of restaurant garbage, black bags of litter and bread thrown out for them by pigeon-fanciers. And that is not going to happen in cities until street pigeons fly farther than they waddle.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-762 5000

Dilemma of raising party funds without incurring debts

From Mr Gregory Shenkman

Sir, Tony Blair (reports, article and leading article, November 17; letters, November 13, 14, 15, 17) is reacting with the sort of hasty panic which the rest of us may repeat at leisure if the Bernie Ecclestone affair results in a decision to provide public funding for political parties. Such a step would be profoundly inappropriate and smack of the nanny state which many of us fear new Labour represents. The same goes for limits on the size of donations.

Political parties and their leaders should ensure that their decisions are not influenced unduly by those from whom the party receives its funding. It would be little short of pathetic for the Prime Minister to ban or restrict funding from private sources on the basis that he cannot exercise proper judgment or control in his own party. The electorate should reject governments it cannot trust. That is democracy.

Individuals and private-sector companies should be permitted to finance political parties as they feel appropriate. To deny this freedom and to replace it with a system of centrally controlled funding and/or size limits would be profoundly illiberal and introduce a sinister element of bureaucratic control which has no place in British politics.

The Government is required to be

in a way which is both ethical and seen to be ethical. It has palpably failed to do so recently — Mr Blair's rather immodest apology notwithstanding. The rest of us should not

mistake government dishonesty and/or incompetence for a fundamental flaw in the manner in which political parties are funded. It may not be perfect, but it is better than the alternatives.

Business has tended to support the Tories (although more recently new Labour as well) on the basis that it believes they will be friendly to business interests. In the same way the trade unions have always funded Labour because they expect the Labour Party to support the trade union movement and Labour has never been ashamed of this source of funds. Why should business or private individuals be treated differently?

Yours faithfully,

GREGORY SHENKMAN,
35 Scarsdale Villas, W8,
November 17.

From Mr Peter Chapman

Sir, Can one be forgiven for doubting that altruism underlies financial donations to political parties from business?

Surely the air would be clearer if parties were to be funded from public funds. Arm-twists would be avoided and the different parties could be treated fairly.

I am not sure that the taxpayer would object too strongly if a modest ceiling were imposed on election expenditure. After all, this year's most costly exercise succeeded in boring the electorate rigid and seems to have done little to encourage folk to vote.

Yours faithfully,

PETER CHAPMAN
(Headmaster,
The Knights Templar School),
Park Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire,
November 14.

From Dr I. Mertling-Blake

Sir, It is obviously painful for those who make hugely generous political donations to have their assurances that they neither seek nor expect commercial favours doubted. Surely unselfish citizenship of such high order deserves better than to be sullied by unworthy inuendoes?

Why not have these philanthropists contribute to one, audited, political fund, to be divided in direct proportion to the numbers who voted for each political party at the previous election?

Furthermore, annual notification of names and amounts donated would eliminate suspicion of any ulterior personal motives when Birthday and New Year Honours Lists are published.

I remain, yours faithfully,
IAN M. BLAKE,
Blair Cottage,
Aulgrishan,
Melvaig, Gairloch, Wester Ross,
November 14.

From Mr Richard Lambert

Sir, Mr Nicholas Beale's suggestion (letter, November 6) that the existence of God could ever be subject to philosophical or scientific demonstration seems to me little short of idolatrous, stemming from an unjustifiable belief in the omnipotence of reason and scientific method. I am afraid that any God established by these methods would turn out, by definition, to be a very human invention.

Christianity, in common with the world's other major religions, speaks of belief in God in dynamic terms — "conversion", "vision", "revelation", "commitment" and "faith" (in the religious sense of awe), not in dry intellectual terms.

I do not want to set faith against reason — mainstream Christianity at least has always seen the two as complementary — and I accept that philosophical and scientific reasoning might occasionally help with clarification at the margins. But belief in God is an attitude of mind and a positioning of oneself towards the world which arises from experience, from confrontation with one's everyday problems, and from deep reflection on the meaning of life.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LAMBERT,
28 The Sheraton,
St Marks Hill, Surbiton, Surrey,
November 7.

From Mr John Sherlock

Sir, Nicholas Beale and Professor Col in Howson (letter, November 10) have each, no doubt, weighed much evidence but have reached different conclusions on the matter of whether or not God exists. Yet surely Professor Howson would agree with Mr Beale that a philosopher (or indeed a scientist) should seek and analyse the evidence in preference to lapsing into irrational superstition?

Scientists, philosophers and ordin-

ary mortals will respect the professor's requirement that a hypothesis should be tested by the most rigorous investigation and analysis. On this basis, the hard evidence supports the hypothesis of a God who cares passionately for human beings and humanity.

Certainly such a conclusion leaves a lot unexplained, but here the Christian has an unfair advantage over the atheist. He finds that his hypothetical God begins to communicate and to reveal answers to the knotty questions. In particular, he discovers why living and dying are so very worthwhile.

Yours faithfully (not sceptically),
JOHN SHERLOCK,
The Cottage, Church Street,
Rudgwick, West Sussex,
john.sherlock@mpc.com
November 10.

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, The operative phrase of Professor Howson's letter on the likelihood of the existence of God is that he has yet to see an argument to that effect — to his satisfaction. Well, what satisfaction does he think we "believers" enjoy?

Faith, based on revelation, witness and scientific observation of creation, is all there is. A great deal of faith is needed to believe in the god of science — the Big Bang. There is no satisfactory empirical proof of this plausible but, in my view, highly improbable conjecture of creation from nothing, which means that since it cannot be observed or measured it is not scientific and can only be taken on faith — not, however, to everyone's satisfaction.

Having said that, it does remind me strongly of the biblical account of creation — from nothing.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD KAUKAS,
13 Lynwood Road, W5,
November 10.

From Mr Richard Burden, MP for Birmingham Northfield (Labour)

Sir, Peter Riddell's article on electoral reform (November 13) was interesting but he is wrong to say that proportional voting would threaten MPs' constituency links. Methods such as the Additional Member System make votes count and retain the MP-constituency link.

Labour's manifesto commits us to establish a commission on voting systems to recommend a proportional alternative, to be put before the people in a referendum. That commission will be established soon and will ensure that the people, not politicians, will decide the voting system they wish to see.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD BURDEN
(Chair, Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform),
House of Commons,
November 13.

From Miss Jane Down

Sir, Your report of November 12, "Lawnmower firm finds American grass is greener", refers to Ransomes of Ipswich as having manufactured the world's first lawnmower in 1832.

According to my archives, the lawnmower was invented by the Reverend Edwin Budding and patented by J. Ferrabee of the Phoenix Foundry near Stroud in Gloucestershire in about 1828. Known as Budding's machine, it was a new adaptation of one of the most efficient mechanical contrivances employed for shearing cloth and was marketed under Budding's maxim that "Country Gentlemen may find

Tardy payout hits gun compensation

From Dr David Valentine

Sir, I am more than a little concerned about the progress of the firearms compensation scheme.

I handed in my firearms ten days after the ban came into effect in July. According to the Home Office's explanatory leaflet it would be "several weeks" before they were in a position to acknowledge my claim. I received acknowledgement on November 10.

My numerous inquiries by telephone to the Home Office have revealed that my claim is number ten thousand and something out of seventy or eighty thousand by their estimate, but they are concentrating on A and B claims, ie, for those very limited numbers of items included on their compensation price list. Type C claims, which require a valuation by the claimant and which the majority of serious shooters will have submitted, are to be dealt with only when A and B claims have been settled.

At this rate of progress, as the Home Office has been given no deadline for completing the compensation scheme, it could be some years before all claimants are paid. Also, there is no provision for the payment of interest, thus reducing the value of the claim: a matter which should perhaps concern the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. VALENTINE,
11 Muston Road,
Hunmanby, North Yorkshire.
dvalentine@medtech.
compulink.co.uk

November 10.

Wigs and gowns

From Sir Neil Pritchard

Sir, I used to think that wigs for judges should be abolished (letters, November 13). I have changed my mind.

Recently, on my first visit to a court of law, I observed a friend of mine operating as judge. In his wig he looked (and indeed was) appropriately solemn and anonymous. He looked quite different, and I was impressed: I felt that this solemnity and anonymity helped the dispensation of justice.

Barriers are not in the same category. They are advocates. They do not need to seem more intimidatory than they are naturally; they would be quite awe-inspiring enough without their wigs.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL PRITCHARD,
Little Garth, Daglingworth,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

From His Honour Judge Dr Peter Jackson

Sir, As a regular guest speaker at the German Judges Academy, Berlin, I have the opportunity to talk to very many members of the German judiciary, where robes consist of a simple black gown (their hats have now been discarded).

They seem to have one common complaint: that they and the courts do not generally command respect and that discipline in the criminal courtroom in particular is often poor.

One senior judge, having seen our courts, remarked: "If only I had the wig and gown and authority of an English judge, my judicial work would be a lot easier."

Yours etc,
PETER JACKSON,
3 Pump Court, Temple, EC4,
November 14.

Proceed with care

From Mrs Lucy Amos

Sir, Words of wisdom not only accompany flowers and food (letters, November 11 and 13). My new hot-water bottle comes with these instructions: When filling the bottle do not use boiling water or water from the hot tap as this will cause the bottle to perish.

Yours faithfully,
LUCY AMOS,
132 Bloomfield Road, Bath,
November 13.

From Mr Phil Gulliford

Sir, Instructions for a Fujifilm compact camera: Do not use this camera when it is emitting smoke or is unusually hot to the touch... Use of the camera in any of these conditions may cause a fire...

Yours faithfully,
PHIL GULLIFORD,
30 Wintonham Way,
Purley-on-Thames, Berkshire.

From Mr Peter Orr

Sir, My pack of sleeping tablets carries the warning, "May cause drowsiness".

Yours faithfully,
PETER ORR,
17 Berkley Drive,
Guiseborough, Cleveland,
November 14.

From Mr Guy Greenhouse

Sir, My wife and I recently enjoyed a Californian wine called Frog's Leap. At the very bottom of the label on the back of the bottle was the helpful guidance, "Open Other End".

Yours faithfully,
GUY GREENHOUSE,
20 Bovingdon Heights,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.
guy.greenhouse@radcliffes.co.uk
November 14.

in using my machine themselves, an amusing, useful, and healthy exercise".

Its first commercial outing was during the summer of 1831, when Mr Curtis, foreman of the Zoological Society's gardens in Regent's Park, found it to be entirely satisfactory, doing as much work as six men with scythes and brooms. There were two models available, ranging in price from seven to ten guineas. The wooden box on the front to collect the clippings was, of course, an optional extra.

Yours faithfully,
JANE DOWN,
Marshwood House, Whitegate,
Forton, Chard, Somerset,
November 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-762 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Get ready to win the £1,000 December prize

The story so far . . .

I see Big Ron has taken the Sheffield Wednesday job. Really? Big Ron? That's amazing! Not that amazing, surely. No? Well, it certainly is brilliant news. Big Ron, eh? I think he's great.

I never suspected you were such a big fan of his. Oh yes. Will I be able to have him as my manager? Yes. He doesn't appear in today's lists, but you can sign him up straight away. He's valued at £1.5 million. Superb. As you know, I've been having problems with the manager's position in my team.

Not to mention full back, striker, midfielder . . . I'll ignore that. Anyway, it doesn't matter now. Big Ron is the man to knit them all together. You know, the strong, silent type; man of few words . . .

Excuse me? Are we talking about the same person? Ron Atkinson, silent?

Ron Atkinson? Oh, I see. I thought you meant Big Ron from Eastenders. You know, the large bloke who sits in the Queen Vic all day and never says anything. Ron Tarr. I think his name is. Unsung character actor.

Hmm. The Big Ron I'm talking about is certainly a character, although I don't know about unsung. Yes, I've got him now. Some sort of TV commentator, isn't he?

As a sideline. He has pedigree as a football manager, you know. He once managed Manchester United when they won their first ten games of the season.

So they won the league, then? Finished fourth, I believe.

But he still might do something for Sheffield Wednesday?

He might well. He loves flair players, so expect to see Carbone and Di Canio given licence to attack.

What about the defence? Does he favour a flat back four? Three centre-backs?

He's not generally associated with defence in the popular imagination, to tell the truth.

I'm not too worried about it either. If I'm honest, I was thinking about signing Andy Booth, though. He scored a hat-trick in his last game.

Yes, but don't forget that Wednesday are playing Arsenal this Saturday. It might not be so easy for Booth against Tony Adams and David Seaman.

Any suggestions, then?

How about someone from north of the border? I can't afford Negri.

There are others, you know.

But I don't know much about Scottish football. Funny you should say that . . .

Every month a £1,000 prize awaits a shrewd selector. Coventry's John Salako offers insight into his choices

John Salako, the Coventry City winger, has found himself more successful as a manager than as a player in his own team in the PFA section of ITF.

"Yes, I chose myself," he said. "The price was right! Plus I have myself in there as an incentive to do well and score goals; but it's been a frustrating season." Currently injured, Salako has seen a promising beginning to the campaign fade somewhat. "If I had scored three or four more goals — and I have had chances, especially against Sheffield Wednesday — it would have been excellent."



Salako the manager, however, sees his team, Flicky's Flyers, in third place in the PFA mini-league.

Important contributions have been made by two former teammates from his days at Crystal Palace, now both England internationals with other clubs: Nigel Martyn, the goalkeeper, and Ian Wright.

"Now Nigel's at Leeds, and I felt George Graham would have a good back five," (He also chose David Robertson, the Leeds full-back.) Salako, who has himself played five times for the full England side, fully supports Glenn Hoddle's decision to pick Martyn for England, and was pleased to see him keep a clean sheet at Wembley on Saturday against Cameroon. "I rate him in the top three in the country, although he's going to have a brainstorm now and then. I think he used them all up in the home game with Derby [when Leeds trailed 3-0 before

coming back to win 4-3-3." Wright, Arsenal's record goalscorer, and striking partner Mark Bright gave Salako the nickname "Flicky" when all three played together at Selhurst Park. "I'm not called it too much at Coventry, but whenever I see them, that's what they call me. I quite like it. I know Ian [Wright] very well. I think he's phenomenal."

I want him to do well." And so far, he has.

Salako has paired Wright with Marco Negri in his team. "He's had a fantastic season. Rangers strikers always do well. He was a bit of an unknown quantity. I fancied Laudrup at the start of the season, but I didn't pick him in the end." A good choice: of the two, Negri is the top points scorer in ITF, while Laudrup has been a relative disappointment.

Rio Ferdinand and Colin Hendry are opponents who have earned Salako's respect, and places in his team's defence, while joining Salako in midfield are Patrick Vieira ("running the show for Arsenal"), Gary Speed of Everton ("a hard-working midfielder player who gets forward and scores goals, especially with his head"), and Eric Tinkler of Barnsley ("You've got to include a bargain buy — it's not luck whether or not he comes good"). Tinkler's score so far is 14 — one fewer than Salako's own.



Salako: selected Ian Wright and Nigel Martyn, two of his former Crystal Palace colleagues

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, debts, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:

0991 111 333

If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0171-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE	PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
£50,000 top prize £1,000 monthly prize	Professional league their fantasy team
STUDENTS' LEAGUE	YOUTH LEAGUE
Monthly prize of £1,000 signed football and sports bag	Monthly prize of £1,000 signed football and sports bag
WOMEN'S LEAGUE	
Monthly prize of £1,000 signed football and sports bag	

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1 S Brooks	Sandra Specials	391
2 P Sloan	Patsia Utd	383
3 S Reader	Sophie Reader Fa	379
4 B Fletcher	AB Fab	373
5 E Emery	Bugsey's Boys	371
6 P Johnston	XII Superstars	370
7 P Bee	Bumble Five	368
8 S Whitfield	Snail Busters	367
9 S Cuthpole	Blue Boys	362
10 A Beam	Harry's Heroes	360
11 H Irvine	Hel's Belles	360
12 J Gardner	IS Chumbawumbas	358
13 P Beattie	Sounds Good	356
14 V Douglass	The Belle Delli	354
15 B Sharp	Penfield FC	354
16 A Gallagher	The Lynch Mob	352
17 J Blimand	Jane's Allstars	352
18 J Lumsdaine	Alps Lexington	352
19 C Purdy	Kates Cosmos	350
20 C McKnight	Real Fleche X	350

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1 N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	439
2 G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	417
3 N Wheatley	Witheridge is ill	410
4 C Marjanecak	Janssen's XI	388
5 T Gardner	6 Chumbawumbas	385
6 N Wheatley	A Tight Horse Is Fun	383
7 I McGill	The White Helms	379
8 P Henson	Hendonhamers	374
9 J Winstead	Patner Shubochov	373
10 HK Gajdhar	Hem's Eleven	370
11 Z Tzer	Ziggy Graves XI	368
12 Steven Shipley	Set Against	364
13 C Van Hraugh	The Boy Sprouts	364
14 J Gardner	IS Chumbawumbas	358
15 J Pentigrew	Tor Cosmos	355
16 D Dwyer	Fowler Reserves	355
17 A Clifford	Smelly Tubies	354
18 J Frost	Variety Sports Inter	354
19 J Liversidge	Real Ramshotom	354
20 M Malek	Rangers 12	353

YOUTH LEAGUE

1 D Lewis	Lewis Boys II	414
2 C Marjanecak	Janssen's XI	388
3 P Curran	Spartak Carter	371
4 G Calderbank	Calders XI	368
5 R Wicks	Robbed	366
6 M Roberts	Krytonia Three	366
7 E Swales	Esliers Entertainers	364
8 R Alden	Cornholer Boys	363
9 M Somaripa	Horley Flames	360
10 T Smith	Up The League Fc	360
11 M McPhillips	Billy Gallyovers	359
12 D Greenman	Thickupthecup	358
13 J Gardner	IS Chumbawumbas	358
14 D Miller	Britannia Best	355
15 N Bendorben	Total Commitment	354
16 D Cheetham	Clifton Rovers	354
17 Z Zaklabin	Zacks Army	354
18 R Caulfield	Caul's Dwarfs	353
19 T Stansfield	Outland Goo	351
20 S Mawer	Forest Reserves	351

ITF LEAGUE

1 Mr D Edbrooke-Stainer	Ca	466
2 G Ralston	Rainbow's Topsteam	462
3 Mr M Jones	Jbo	463
4 S Legg	Goose 4	463
5 Mike Madden	Proachers never change their sp	462
6 Mr M Jones	JB	456
7 C Sloan	Branningham FC	455
8 B Fazakerley	Lic 4	451
9 Chris Fournie	Game of Two Pints	449
10 George Mijuskovich	Big Mac Europe	449
11 Malcolm Jackson	No name	448
12 D Fortin	Jbs	447
13 D Ress	Out Of The Blue	446
14 R Calder	Lithens	445
15 J W Goody	Bobs Boys	445
16 Mr A Colcombe	Legion	440
17 N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	439
18 Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	438
19 Munkand	Coulton Goolen	437
20 AJ Hastings	Golden Wonders	436
21 Steven Adams	Britannia FC	436
22 K Farhall	Chelton 6	435
23 G Dolan	Goatsie	433
24 Mary Ann Kennedy	Tee Farr	433
25 D Shuter	Don 2	432
26 D Shuter	This Years Lot	432
27 C Burr	Burr's Spurs 4	430
28 G Kooner	United	429
29 Mr M Jones	Jbs	429
30 Ralston	Barba Papa a la Bacon	428
31 Burt	Novore Spollers	428
32 J W Goody	Jpm	424
33 V Cnn	Pegasus And Unicorns	424
34 Mr S Legg	Mondo 6	424
35 J Heather	Enid 4	423
36 S Legg	Goose 5	422
37 Allison Scanlan	Flying Kicks	421
38 P Turner	Turners Earners 5	421
39 R Yates	Fairfield Dons C	419
40 J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 7	419
41 Mr Dp Knight	Knightie	418
42 G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	417
43 P Rees	Yukon Merchants	417
44 Mr Trevor K Perry	Unsworth for England	417
45 Gandy	Worms	416
46 C Milner	Premier Stars	416
47 R Yates	Ace Adam 2	416
48 A Birrell	File Flyers	416
49 Adam Finghin	AFI	416
50 D Shuter	DON 5	415
51 T Gammage	Drowned Goldfish	415
52 Richard Callis	Sedgely Celtic FC	414
53 C Scarlet	FK 306	414
54 P Bee	Bumble Twelve	413
55 D Shuter	Rasselt 2	413
56 James Tan	Red Scousers	413
57 Mr A Mellan	Shorts Hits	412
58 A Newfaski	Nadar	412
59 P Bown	Bees XI	412
60 K Farhall	Turners Earners 6	412
61 Mr K Lethby	KLS	411
62 R Jones	Cell Block H	411
63 A Old Barn House	AC Die UK	411
64 Chris Fende	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	411
65 Mr N Wheatley	Witheridge is ill	410
66 J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 3	410
67 S Legg	Goose 6	410
68 P Turner	Turners Earners 5	410
69 Susan Makin	Spud 2	409
70 Tim Oldfield	Winter Warriors 4	409
71 P Lee	Moss Marauders	408
72 Graham Watson	Hi Ate Us	408
73 Richard Korman	R.S.B.	408
74 Mrs Sheila Borkland	Teddybears Pinknicks	408
75 Alex Radcliffe	Orlando Magic	408
76 K Farhall	Koth 4	408
77 Jon Pregon	Jp 1	408
78 Mrs P Tansley	At	408
79 Hugh Somerville	Nels XI	407
80 J Bartlett	The Wright Ones	406
81 Guldin	Sanamarta	406
82 Mr K Lethby	KLS	406
83 D Shuter	Don 1	405
84 Andrew	United United	405
85 Mr M Cunn	Hi Shot	405
86 Mr K Lethby	KLS	405
87 AG Henderson	Hendon Four	404
88 RJ Ward	Nanchank A FC 4	404
89 V Cox	Alan Cox Dunder Haven	404
90 P Darnell	Hakin Ud	403
91 Greene Dabrow	St Rem Strikers	403
92 Graham Watson	Definite Nylates	403
93 Henry Wheeler	Quinn Fun	403
94 J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 1	403
95 Mr D Patel	Dix	403
96 J Strickland	CLANS	402
97 Brian O'Hare	The Warriors (Come out to play	402
98 J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton A	402

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1 Paul Simpson	Derby County/Wolves	317
2 Simon Grayson	Aston Villa	304
3 John Salako	Coventry City	291
4 Dean Blackwell	Wimbledon	285
5 Alfie Hewson	Leeds United	285
6 Robert Lee	Newcastle United	277
7 Steve Potts	West Ham United	269
8 Rob Savage	Leicester City	267
9 Jonathan Hunt	Derby County	253
10 Kyle Lightbourne	Coventry City	252
11 Brian Kormie	Liverpool	252
12 Tim Brooker	West Ham United	252
13 David Tuttle	Crystal Palace	244
14 Richard Shaw	Coventry City	244
15 David Barry	Newcastle United	243
16 Kenny Cunningham	Wimbledon	242
17 David Webster	Blackburn Rovers	239
18 Frank Leeson	Leeds United	237
19 David Seaman	Chelsea	234
20 Lee Sharpe	Coventry City	228
21 Paul Williams	Crystal Palace	225
22 Kevin Muscat	Chelsea	223
23 Kevin Muscat	Liverpool	219
24 Phil Babb	Tottenham Hotspur	217
25 Gary Mahboub	Chelsea	216
26 Dariusz Wozniak	Wimbledon	216
27 Dave Watson	Wimbledon	215
28 Jason Ewell	Barnsley	213
29 Dean Holdsworth	Barnsley	213
30 John Hendrie	Derby County	213
31 Andrew Liddell	Derby County	213
32 Neil Redfern	Derby County	213
33 Gareth Southgate	Derby County	213
34 Teddy Sheringham	Manchester United	209
35 Robbie Fowler	Liverpool	207
36 James Kean	Coventry City	207
37 Graeme Le Saux	Chelsea	200
38 Nicky Butt	Manchester United	200
39 Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	198
40 Robin Van Der Laan	Derby County	198
41 Chris Powell	Derby County	196
42 Andy Roberts	Crystal Palace	196
43 Stewart Gardner	Wimbledon	194
44 Lee Dixon	Arsenal	194
45 Kasey Keller	Leicester City	193
46 Richard Johnson	Leeds United	192
47 Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	192
48 John Bernisford	Newcastle United	192
49 Ian Pearce	Blackburn Rovers/West Ham	191
50 Patrick Berger	Liverpool	190
51 Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	187
52 John Steele	Tottenham Hotspur	184
53 Steve Clarke	Chelsea	183
54 Andy Townsend	Aston Villa/Middlesbrough	183
55 Andy Sinton	Manchester City	182
56 John Harrison	West Ham United	175
57 Lars Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	173
58 Steve Lomas	West Ham United	172
59 Roger Croos	Tottenham Hotspur	170
60 Darren Fletcher	Crystal Palace	167
61 Danny Williamson	Everton	167
62 Spencer Prior	Leicester City	159
63 Gary Neville	Manchester United	157
64 Ian Dowie	Manchester United	157
65 David Beckham	Liverpool	150
66 Mark Wright	West Ham United	144
67 Ian Dowie	Chelsea	144
68 Gianfranco Zola	Derby County	131
69 Lee Carley	Tottenham Hotspur	124
70 Colin Calderwood	Newcastle United	123
71 Alan Shearer	Aston Villa	123
72 Alan Wright	Crystal Palace	118
73 Alan Shearer	Leicester City/Bolton	118
74 Alan Shearer		118
75 Mike Whitlow		118

INTERNET LEAGUE

1 Mike Madden	Proachers Never Change	462
2 Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	449
3 George Mijuskovich	Big Mac Europe	449
4 Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	437
5 Munkand	Coulton Goolen	437
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14 Jeremy Dwyer	St Rem Strikers	411
15 Susan Makin	Winder Warriors 4	410
16 Tim Oldfield	Hi Ate Us	408
17 Graham Watson	R.S.B.	408
18 Richard Korman	Teddybears Pinknicks	408
19 Mrs Sheila Borkland		408

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1997-8 matches in the FA Cup, Premier League, ITF Cup, B&B's Scottish League premier division and Tannets Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS AWARDED	
Goalkeeper	Striker
Keeps clean sheet (per half)***	Scored goal
+20 points	+2 points
Saves penalty	All players
+1 point	On winning side
Full backs/Central defender	Apparatus
+3 points	Scored goal
Keeps clean sheet*	+10 bonus
+4 points	Manager
Midfield player	Wins
+1 point	+3 points
Keeps clean sheet*	Draws
+3 points	+1 point
POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	Booked
-2 points	-1 point
Concedes goal	Concedes penalty
-1 point	-1 point
Full backs/Central defender	Misses penalty
-1 point	-1 point
Concedes goal	Scored own goal
-1 point	-1 point
All players	Team losses
-3 points	-1 point
Set off	

* If a player has played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points must have played for 75 minutes in the match. ** Must have played for 45 minutes in the match.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER ITF

£1,000, a signed Mitre football and a Mitre Sports bag, and tickets to a premier league match of your choice can be won every month, plus the chance to win £10,000 in a separate FA Cup League so enter the ITF now.

The manager of the month can be won by any team, no matter where it is in the overall ITF league. The prize simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one month. If you are a student or a woman (18 or over) you may also enter the appropriate mini-league, while under-18 year olds enter the Youth League. These all carry separate monthly prizes.

By entering the ITF, your team will automatically be entered into a separate FA Cup league. Your players will earn you points for the FA Cup league (Littlewoods FA Cup and Tannets Scottish FA Cup) as well as the main ITF league.

Your full guide to players and transfers

A spell of Premiership inactivity meant that the focus of ITF activity moved north of the border last week

While most of the stars of the FA Carling Premiership were taking a well-earned break not counting those representing their countries, be they England, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, Yugoslavia or even Jamaica, there was a full programme of matches in the Scottish Premier League.

Noticing this, some ITF players were active on the transfer market last week, acquiring players likely to score points in vital games, although those relying on Celtic or Rangers players were probably disappointed as Aberdeen held the Blues, while Motherwell took the points at Celtic Park.

To a number of other ITF entrants, Scottish football means one thing — Marco Negri. However, to attempt to cast more light onto what many competitors south of Hadrian's Wall see as a shadowy area of British football, we have chosen an ITF team based entirely on players playing in Scotland.

That does not, of course, necessarily mean Scottish players; Scotland, too, has seen its own influx of talent from overseas. Take Gilles Rousset, the Heart of Midlothian goalkeeper, formerly with Rennes, for instance. The Frenchman is the top points-scorer among goalkeepers in



the SPL, and only David Seaman and Peter Schmeichel have better records in ITF.

Celtic have a fine tradition at full-back — names like Tommy Gemmill and Danny McGrain spring to mind — and Tom Boyd, who has scored 23 ITF points so far this season, has won 51 Scottish caps, and captained the national side in France last week.

Across Glasgow, Stale Stensaa, the Norwegian, has been a consistent points-scorer while playing for Rangers.

Another Old Firm pairing at central defender looks solid. Alan Stubbs, the former Bolton Wanderers player, has proved that north-south movement is not the only possibility in transfers between the English and Scottish clubs, while Sergio Porrini played for Juventus in last season's European Champions' Cup final against Borussia Dortmund. Not that David Weir of Hearts does not also deserve a place for his 23 points so far.

To show that there is more to Scotland than the two Glasgow clubs, how about a midfielder of Atilla Sekerlioglu (born in Linz, Austria, despite the Turkish origins of his name) of St Johnstone. Hibernian's Barry Lavery, Robbie Winters (Dundee United) and Neil McCann of Hearts?

Naturally, no Scotland-based selection would be complete without Negri, whose points total now stands, head and shoulders above the rest of ITF, at 89. However, only two representatives of any one club are permitted in ITF teams; and so, as well as for the sake of variety, Tommy Coyne of Motherwell and Dundee United's Kjell Olofsson complete our team. The manager is Paul Sturrock, of St Johnstone.



NICK SZCZEPANIK Rousset of Hearts: only Seaman and Schmeichel have better ITF goalkeeping records

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

IN	OUT
11602 Olafur Gottskalksson Hibernian £1.5m	12701 Maik Taylor Southampton £0.5m
20603 Jimmy Phillips Bolton Wanderers £1.0m	20602 Brian Borrows Coventry City £1.0m
20904 Roland Nilsson Coventry City £1.0m	
22903 Tim Breaker West Ham Utd £2.0m	
31004 Herman Hreidarsson Crystal Palace £1.0m	
32404 Richard Gough Rangers £2.0m	
41405 John Oser Everton £2.5m	
42505 Guy Whittingham Sheffield Wednesday £1.5m	
42706 Matt Oakley Southampton £1.5m	
51105 Paulo Wanchop Derby County £3.5m	
51404 Danny Cadamarteri Everton £2.5m	
51804 Harry Kewell Leeds United £2.0m	
52904 Jon Dahl Tomasson Newcastle United £2.0m	
52903 Jose Domingues Tottenham Hotspur £3.0m	
53004 Carl Cort Wimbledon £3.0m	
62502 Ron Atkinson Sheffield Wednesday £1.5m	

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. It is a player or manager move made during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-Tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2	-9
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	47
10301	M Boenich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	28
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	-34
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn R	3.50	0	34
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	0	18
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	-3	8
10801	E De Geoy	Chelsea	3.00	0	32
10901	S Ogryzovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	27
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	29
11101	M Poon	Derby County	1.50	0	24
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	2	10
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	3	-7
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	42
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	1.50	3	6
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0	0
11701	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-6
11801	N Martin	Leeds United	3.50	0	37
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	2.50	0	38
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	0	32
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	62
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12301	S Given	Newcastle Utd	4.00	0	17
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	2	19
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-18
12701	M Taylor	Southampton	0.50	0	0
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00	0	0
12801	A Walsh	St Johnstone	0.50	0	13
12801	I Walker	Tottenham H	3.00	0	24
12901	L Mikosko	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	7
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	8	40

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	-1	-19
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.50	0	15
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30203	G Grimand	Arsenal	2.00	0	15
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	11
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0	6
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.50	0	14
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	0	-21
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	0	-20
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0	-2
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn R	3.00	0	22
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn R	2.50	0	13
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn R	2.00	0	0
30601	G Taggart	Bolton W	1.50	0	5
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton W	1.00	0	4
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton W	1.00	0	1
30604	M Fish	Bolton W	1.50	-1	0
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	0	0
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	2
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	-1	21
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00	-2	19
30801	F Labeouf	Chelsea	3.00	0	24
30802	M Durberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	8
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	11
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	-1
30901	L Deish	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	15
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	2
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	8
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	7
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0
31101	I Stimes	Derby County	2.50	0	7
31102	J Laurssen	Derby County	1.50	0	10
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	1	11
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	1	-10
31401	S Bille	Everton	2.50	0	-2
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0	23
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00	-1	-7
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	0	23
31602	D Weatherall	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	11
31801	G Hall	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	8
31802	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	8
31804	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	1.50	0	9
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	0	34
31902	P Keamark	Leicester City	2.00	0	19
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.50	0	25
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00	0	0
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	5
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0	10
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	0	16
32101	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	21
32102	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	27
32103	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	27
32201	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	8
32202	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	8
32203	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	1
32304	A Piskone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	7
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50	0	25
32402	J Bjorndal	Rangers	3.50	0	20
32403	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	7
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-5
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-7
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	-5
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0	5
32704	K Monkou	St Johnstone	1.50	0	4
32801	S McCloskey	St Johnstone	3.00	0	0
32802	S Campbell	Tottenham H	2.50	0	3
32803	J Scalls	Tottenham H	2.00	0	-4
32804	R Vega	Tottenham H	2.00	0	4
32805	C Calderwood	Tottenham H	2.50	0	-4
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
32902	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	-2
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	4
32903	S Potts	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	-8
32904	I Pearce	West Ham Utd	2.50	5	14
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.00	0	15
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	5	13

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40605	J Pollock	Bolton W	2.00	0	15
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	0	15
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	7
42503	R Binkler	Celtic	3.00	-1	11
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	1	26
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00	1	1
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	4.00	0	18
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	0	21
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0	9
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00	0	28
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	0	19
40902	T Sollewelt	Coventry City	1.50	0	17
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	15
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
41002	S Rodgers	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	16
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	18
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00	0	21
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0	6
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	2.50	0	15
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	13
41104	C Van Der Leun	Derby County	1.00	0	8
41105	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	12
41201	R Winters	Dunfermline	3.50	2	37
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	2.00	9	33
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	0	30
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	4
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	0	13
41501	N McCann	Hearts	2.50	2	36
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	1	3
41602	B Lavery	Hibernian	2.00	0	19
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0
41801	D Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	23
41802	L Bowyer	Leeds Utd	3.00	0	10
41803	A Hasland	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	18
41804	L Sharpe	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	0
41805	R Ribeiro	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	0
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	1	10
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	1	22
41903	M Izet	Leicester City	2.00	1	25
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0	0
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	0	35
42002	O Leionhardson	Liverpool	3.00	0	12
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	0	14
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00	0	10
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	5.00	0	21
42101	D Beckham	Manchester Utd	8.00	0	29
42102	R Giggs	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	30
42103	R Keane	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	23
42104	N Butt	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	31
42105	A Cole	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	44
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00	0	6
42301	R Lee	Newcastle Utd	5.00	0	20
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle Utd	3.50	0	17
42303	D Batty	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	12
42304	J Barnes	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	23
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	8.00	1	24
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00	0	24
42403	J Thomson	Rangers	4.00	1	8
42404	J Alabaster	Rangers	4.00	4	20
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wed	3.00	0	30
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	18
42502	M Penbridge	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	12
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wed	1.00	0	5
42702	R Kiehl	Southampton	0.75	0	6
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50	0	13
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	1.50	0	11
42801	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75	0	11
42802	A Sinton	Tottenham H	3.00	0	9
42803	D Anderson	Tottenham H	3.00	0	2
42804	R Fox	Tottenham H	2.00	0	15
42805	D Howells	Tottenham H	2.00	0	16
42806	D Howells	Tottenham H	3.00	0	18
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	32
42902	S Lomas	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	15
42903	J Moncur	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	10
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.50	0	21
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00	2	15
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	3	14
43004	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00	3	16
43005	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	2	15

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00	1	19
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	44
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50	0	44
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	7.50	0	21
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	7.00	0	12
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00	0	7
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50	0	9
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50	0	8
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00	0	13
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00	0	4
50501	K Gallagher	Blackburn R	5.50	0	33
50502	M Dallin	Blackburn R	4.00	0	12
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn R	6.00	0	49
50602	N Blake	Bolton W	3.50	0	16
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton W	2.00	0	14
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton W	3.00	0	9
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00	0	5
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50	0	0
50704	S Lannelly	Celtic	4.50	1	14
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50	1	18
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00	0	20
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00	0	18
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	0	34
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50	0	16
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00	0	0
51001	M Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	13
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	15
51101	D Strunidge	Derby County	4.00	0	17
51103	F Barlow	Derby County	2.00	0	33
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50	0	4
51201	A McLaren	Dundee Utd	3.00	2	18
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee Utd	2.50	4	33
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00	2	10
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	5.00	0	14
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00	0	7
51403	G Stuart	Everton	2.50	0	16
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	2	21
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	3.00	1	1
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00	3	3
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00	0	14
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50	0	12
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds Utd	3.00	0	13
51803	R Wallace	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	33
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50	1	10
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50	1	20
51903	J Marshall	Leicester City	2.50	1	24
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00	0	8
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.50	0	18
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0	25
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50	0	18
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50	0	0
52101	O Solakjaer	Manchester Utd	7.50	0	12
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	28
52103	P Scholes	Manchester Utd	6.00	0	21
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00	4	16
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00	0	21
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle Utd	10.00	0	0
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle Utd	6.00	0	10
52401	M Negri	Rangers	6.50	1	89
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50	0	0
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00	0	0
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wed	3.00	0	20
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wed	3.00	0	22
52503	R Humphries	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	4
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	0	10
52802	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50	0	19
52702	E Ostenslad	Southampton	4.00	0	8
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50	0	0
52801	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50	2	15
52802	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00	0	14
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham H	3.50	0	8
52902	L Ferdinand	Tottenham H	7.50	0	16
52902	C Armstrong	Tottenham H	3.50	0	13
52901	J Hartson	West Ham Utd	3.50	0	33
52902	P Kitson	West Ham Utd	3.00	0	9
52903	I Dowle	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	9
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00	4	12
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.00	0	22

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
51601	J Duffy	Hibernian	2.00	—1	2
51701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00	—1	6
51801	G Graham	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	18
51901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.00	—1	18
52001	R Evans	Liverpool	4.00	0	19
52101	A Ferguson	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	26
52201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00	3	0
52301	K Dalgligh	Newcastle Utd	4.50	0	15
52401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00	1	23
52701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50	0	8
52701	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50	—1	8
52801	G Franche	Tottenham H	2.50	0	6
52901	H Redknapp	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	9
53001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00	3	14

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 1997

Shell and BP battle over Russian fuel reserves

By CARL MORTISHED

SHELL and BP are racing head-to-head in a multimillion-dollar contest to secure access to Russia's oil and gas reserves. The two companies yesterday announced strategic alliances with Russian partners worth a total of \$1.7 billion (£1.06 billion) aimed at developing huge gas reserves in Siberia.

BP has agreed to acquire a 10 per cent stake in AO Sidanco, the fourth-largest integrated Russian oil company for \$571 million. The agreement, to be signed at 10

Downing Street today, involves the purchase of shares from Unexim Bank and a further agreement to fund \$172 million of the cost of developing a gasfield in east Siberia containing up to 60 trillion cubic feet in reserves.

Meanwhile, Shell announced an alliance with Gazprom, the world's largest gas producer. The Anglo-Dutch oil company agreed in Moscow yesterday to create a joint venture company to develop the Russian gas company's extensive oil reserves, which total 14.3 billion barrels. The 50/50 joint venture

development company will seek to produce 25 million tonnes a year of oil and gas condensate, equal to 500,000 barrels per day. As part of the deal, Shell has agreed to subscribe up to \$1 billion in a convertible bond issued by Gazprom. The convertible issue, planned for early next year, will coincide with an issue of a further \$1 billion in bonds to institutional investors, on the same terms.

Shell and Gazprom also announced that they had agreed to make a joint bid with Lukoil, the Russian oil company, for the privatisation of NK Rosneft, another Russian oil company, which has extensive reserves in northwest Siberia and stakes in two big projects, the Sakhalin-1 liquefied natural gas project and the Caspian Pipeline Consortium.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET
FTSE 100 4867.9 (+125.2)
Yield 3.52%
FTSE All share 2299.43 (+48.08)
Nikkei 16283.32 (+1200.8)
New York
Dow Jones 7701.55 (+129.17)
S&P Composite 946.07 (+17.72)

US RATE
Federal Funds 5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond 100% (100%)
Yield 6.11% (6.10%)

LONDON MONEY
3-month interbank 7 1/8% (7 1/8%)
Life long gilt 117% (117%)
Future (GBP)

STERLING
New York
\$ 1.6940* (1.6930)
London
\$ 1.6928 (1.6915)
DM 2.2346 (2.2338)
FF 1.4074 (1.4055)
SF 2.3698 (2.3773)
Yen 212.90 (215.40)
E index 104.1 (104.1)

US DOLLAR
London
£ 1.7325* (1.7303)
DM 5.6020* (5.7650)
FF 1.4074 (1.4055)
SF 2.3698 (2.3773)
Yen 125.05* (125.40)
S index 125.9 (126.1)

Tokyo close Yen 125.23
NORTH SEA OIL
Brent 15-day (Feb) \$19.35 (\$19.90)

GOLD
London close \$302.65 (\$302.55)
* denotes midday trading price

Shares soar after Far East rally

By ALASTAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

THE London stock market bounced back yesterday after sharp overnight gains in Tokyo and Hong Kong helped to start a rally in global equities.

The FTSE 100 closed up 125.2 at 4867.9 — its biggest single-day gain since the current bout of market turbulence began nearly a month ago. But volume was light at just 508.3 million and traders gave warning that investor confidence is still fragile.

London was supported by a strong showing on Wall Street where the Dow Jones Industrial average recorded gains of more than 100 points in early trading after weaker than expected industrial output figures dampened expectations of interest rate rises. Investors were also cheered by an easing in US tensions with Iraq.

London shares with exposure in the Far East enjoyed the biggest gains, with HSBC closing up 61p at £14.77 and Standard Chartered up 20p at 642p, although traders expressed concern that they remain vulnerable to profit-taking in the Far East.

The Japanese market soared overnight after news that the Bank of Japan is to intervene to ensure a smooth liquidation of Hokkaido Tokai Bank (HTB), the country's tenth largest bank.

The Nikkei index scored its fourth largest percentage gain, climbing 8 per cent, to close up 1,200.30 at 16,283.32.

Chris Carter, Japanese equity strategist at UBS, said: "The public bail-out of HTB marks a turning point for the market."

The gains in Japan helped to pull the Hong Kong market higher with investor sentiment also boosted by a fall in bank interest rates. The Hang Seng closed up 4.64 per cent at 10,419.75.

But the revival failed to lift markets in South Korea where the won crashed through the 1,000 level against the dollar after the Government told its central bank to stop defending the currency.

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UB to return £150m after asset swap with PepsiCo

By DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in United Biscuits scored their biggest one-day gain yesterday after the embattled food and snacks group unveiled an asset swap with PepsiCo that will enable it to return £150 million to shareholders.

UB's shares rose 25.4p to 219.4p — more than 12 per cent — as it announced plans to off-load underperforming snack operations in Australia and continental Europe. In return, it will take over Biscuiterie Nantaise, PepsiCo's French biscuit business, and receive a net consideration of £410 million (£240 million).

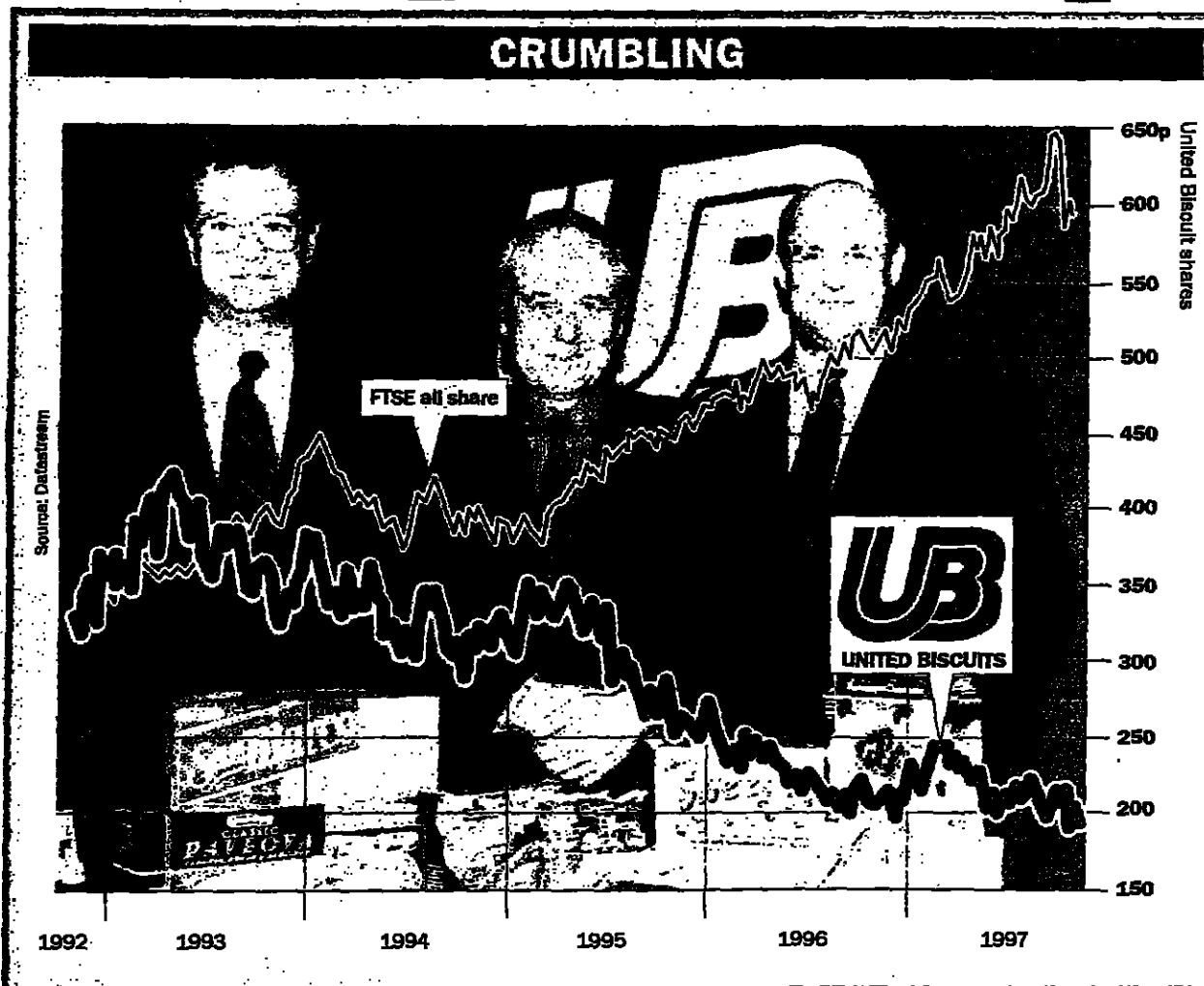
Colin Short, chairman of UB, said the deal would improve the quality of the company's earnings and enhance the return on capital employed while allowing it to return £150 million to shareholders by next July.

Mr Short said that the deal, which is subject to shareholder approval, was "a very significant development for UB". He added: "It gives us a stronger business platform from which to drive for growth in our international biscuit operations and UK food portfolio."

A spokesman confirmed that the future of UB's KP crisps business was also under review. It may be sold. However, its snacks business, which includes the Hula Hoops brand, was performing extremely well and would be retained.

The businesses UB is shedding written off of £97 million. Meanwhile, Biscuiterie Nantaise (BN) made a profit of £7.9 million from turnover of £74 million and has net assets worth £14 million.

The mechanics of the deal



John Warren, left, finance director; Robert Clarke, chairman until July 1995; and Eric Nicol, chief executive of UB

mean that PepsiCo is paying UB £259 million for the various snack businesses while UB is paying £18 million for BN. The European transactions are expected to be completed in the first half of 1998.

but the Australian deal may take longer as it is subject to regulatory approval. Whereas the rationalisation process of the past two years has been punctuated by a series of hefty provisions, the

company said yesterday's deal would produce a "modest" exceptional profit. In addition, UB is retaining its profitable snack businesses in Malaysia, Singapore and Italy.

The exit from Australia is being seen by UB watchers as a sensible move to avoid any further damage from its battle for supremacy with PepsiCo. It entered the market in 1993, but its recent efforts to maintain its dominant position by pumping resources into marketing support have merely served to damage profitability.



Short: better quality earnings

being seen by UB watchers as a sensible move to avoid any further damage from its battle for supremacy with PepsiCo. It entered the market in 1993, but its recent efforts to maintain its dominant position by pumping resources into marketing support have merely served to damage profitability.

The Australian business has been seriously underperforming," the spokesman admitted. Analysts said they believed that the deal meant the company had now largely put the problems of the past five years behind it. During that period, it had suffered from a combination of a disastrous performance from its Keebler business in America, a substantial rise in raw materials costs, recession-led pricing pressure from multiple retailers and the weakness of the green pound.

Michael Landymore, food analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, said: "The management of UB now have an opportunity to demonstrate they can grow the company."

The exit from Australia is

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EU to drop job targets

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRUSSELS looks set to be forced to abandon plans to fix ambitious specific job targets for all European Union member states.

The EU jobs summit in Luxembourg this week is now expected not to set job targets aiming at the creation of 12 million new jobs across Europe over the next five years.

Britain will see the likely abandonment of the specific employment targets proposed by the European Commission as a victory for the UK's insistence on labour market flexibility, though other EU countries like Germany have been working against the setting of particular job targets too.

Brussels originally proposed that the special EU jobs summit, which opens on Thursday, should agree job targets to bring Europe's employment rate — the propor-

tion of the population in work — up from its current level of 60.4 per cent to levels matching that of the US.

Job growth in America has been rapid, especially compared with sluggish growth in Europe, with the much more flexible American labour market widely seen as the principal reason.

The two-stage move proposed by the Commission, firstly to an employment rate of 65 per cent in five years, and then to 70 per cent as a longer-term target, would have meant an objective of cutting the EU's current unemployment rate of 10.6 per cent down to 7 per cent with the creation of 12 million jobs.

But EU member states, including Britain, are now convinced that the Commission will be unable to win sufficient backing for the idea of specific targets at the summit.

Photo-Me sues Swiss rival after price war

PHOTO-ME INTERNATIONAL, the world's largest photo booth operator, is suing a rival Swiss company for SFr200 million (£84 million) as part of a battle for domination of the passport photograph business (Jason Nisse writes).

A writ has been lodged in Lausanne alleging breach of agreement by the Swiss photographic company, Fotolabo, and its director, Marco Forster. If successful, the action could be worth more than five years of taxable profits to Photo-Me.

The dispute centres on Fotolabo's purchase of Prontophot Holdings in January last year. This unleashed a bitter price war in the photo booth market, which has severely affected Photo-Me. The group has issued a series of profits warnings and its directors hinted recently that they may take the group private unless its share price improves.

British Steel warning

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH STEEL yesterday gave warning that the strength of the pound could trigger recession if the Government did not help exporters.

British Steel chairman, said exporters could not go on making little or no money. "It's not going to be all that long before we see some sort of downturn in the UK," his warning came as British Steel, which heavily depends on exports linked to the mark, saw pre-tax profits slump to £143 million from £262 million for the six months to September 30.

But increased orders and an upturn in the price of steel meant that the figures were better than the City had expected and the share price edged up 5p to 150p. In September the shares hit a 12-month high

of 190p. British Steel raised its volumes by 4 per cent in the half year. Mr Moffat said: "Our commercial teams secured record order levels so that all our major UK plants worked at or close to capacity and we continue to operate profitably."

In the six months to September 30, British Steel cut 500 jobs. It also said that the flatter management structure would "result in more rapid decision-making and progressive operating efficiencies".

Its profits have also been hit by spending on three new plants. Although the company is to put on ice a £500 million development in Indonesia because of the turmoil in the Far East economies, it is still looking out for acquisitions.

The interim dividend, payable on January 12, was held at 3p.

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Holt Lloyd sold to Americans

Holt Lloyd, the UK car care products company, has been sold by Electra Fleming to Prestone, a subsidiary of AlliedSignal of America, for \$155 million (£91.6 million).

Brooke goes

Richard Brooke has resigned as group finance director of British Sky Broadcasting. He will become managing director of St James's Investment Partnership.

Workplace up

Workplace Group, the property company, lifted net assets to 470p (417p) a share in the year to September 30. Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £2.5 million. The dividend is up 11 per cent to 4.5p.

Dividend rise

Adam & Harvey, the distribution and steel stockholding group, is lifting the dividend to 13.5p a share (12.25p) although pre-tax profits fell to £2.48 million (£2.55 million) in the half year to September 30.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.29	2.28
Austria Sch	21.94	19.98
Belgium Fr	65.08	58.70
Canada C\$	2.15	2.37
Cyprus Cyp£	0.303	0.332
Denmark Kr	11.75	10.86
Finland Mk	5.27	5.62
France Fr	10.28	9.50
Germany DM	3.10	2.85
Greece Dr	4.86	4.47
Hong Kong \$	13.80	12.89
Ireland £	1.21	1.01
Israel Shk	6.34	5.89
Italy Lit	2043	2009
Japan Yen	227.43	209.90
Malta	0.682	0.623
Netherlands Gld	3.48	3.21
New Zealand \$	2.84	2.61
Norway Kr	12.59	11.85
Portugal Esc	311.23	289.52
S Africa Rd	8.80	7.94
Spain Ptas	236.76	240.04
Sweden Kr	13.28	12.49
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.32
Turkey Lira	30570	30582
USA \$	1.796	1.653

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Unigate poised to capitalise on consolidation of dairy industry

By PAUL DURMAN

UNIGATE, the milk company behind St Ivel spreads and yoghurts, is still not making enough profit on selling milk to supermarkets and believes a shake-out is needed in the dairy industry.

Sir Ross Buckland, chief executive, said he is confident the industry will undergo a significant structural change before the end of next year, in spite of difficulties involved in combining existing milk suppliers. With net cash of £169.2

million at the end of September, Unigate is well placed to take out the weaker or uncommitted businesses.

The company gave few clues about how it expects industry consolidation to take place, although Ian Martin, chairman, said: "Underneath the water, there's a hell of a lot of activity taking place."

Unigate increased its sales of milk to supermarkets by 3.5 per cent in the six months to September, but margins fell because it had to accept lower prices. However, the fall in the

price of raw milk enabled the dairy division to lift its profit by 11 per cent to £19.5 million on sales marginally higher at £19.5 million.

Doorstep deliveries produced an improved profit, although the volume of sales continued to contract rapidly.

With a £5 million improvement in profits from its fresh foods business, Unigate was able to increase the group's interim pre-tax profits by 11 per cent to £67.4 million. This year's total included a £1 million profit on the sale of

surplus dairy properties. Turnover rose 3 per cent to £1.18 billion. Unigate said it had made excellent progress and expects this to be "another year of profitable growth".

The fresh food operation, which includes the Malton Foods ham and bacon business, increased profits to £31.5 million on sales of £635 million. At St Ivel, the relaunch of the Shape range of yoghurts produced a 25 per cent increase in the volume of sales.

Last year's acquisition of Vitalite and Golden Churn

increased the volume of spread sales by 34 per cent.

The profit recovery at Malton Foods was helped by lower pigmeat costs and strong sales of cooked meats.

Wincanton Logistics, the warehousing and distribution business, made £12.6 million (£12.3 million), held back by problems in the petroleum and chemicals markets.

An interim dividend of 7.5p (7p) a share will be paid on January 5.

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FirstBus planning £150m expansion

By CHRIS AYRES

FIRSTBUS, the UK's biggest bus operator, is planning to spend up to £150 million over the 12 months to boost its market share to 25 per cent and expand its interests in railways and airports.

The company, which is chaired by Trevor Smallwood, is being renamed FirstGroup as part of the expansion. It currently controls 22 per cent of the UK bus market. It operates Great Eastern Railway, holds a stake in Great Western Trains and is the preferred bidder for 51 per cent of Bristol International Airport.

Moir Lockhead, the chief executive, said: "We have a facility of £150 million and if the opportunities are there we will spend it. I think we can expand our share of the bus market by 3 per cent before the Office of Fair Trading has another look." Mr Lockhead

said that securing priority routes for buses — plus greater awareness of the dangers of drink-driving — had helped to attract new customers.

The company also declared an interest in running a London Underground franchise if the Government introduces a privatisation programme. "There appears to be a backlog of work and we would have to establish how much that would cost," Mr Lockhead said.

Yesterday, FirstBus reported a 28 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30, from £23.5 million to £30.4 million, up 47 per cent from £246.8 million. Basic earnings per share were 7.3p, down 22 per cent from 9.4p. A dividend of 2.2p (1.8p) is due on February 18.

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Moir Lockhead, left, and Trevor Smallwood yesterday

Southern Electric agrees to cuts

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC, the last independent regional electricity company, yesterday attacked price controls which will cut bills by an average 9 per cent or £23 — over the next two years but agreed to abide by the regulator's curbs. Its acceptance follows a

similar agreement by Eastern, part of The Energy Group, last week and signals a likely endorsement by the whole industry. In the summer regional companies indicated that they could seek referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in a clash with

Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, over the controls which

are intended to protect prices once competition starts in household electricity. A phased introduction of competition starts next April.

Southern complained that the two-year price restraint unfairly penalised companies that had reduced their cost base and which had passed on benefits to customers. But the company

said it would not challenge the price controls on the supply element of an electricity bill because it would not be in shareholders' interests.

The regulator ordered price cuts from regional electricity companies in order to ensure that once competition began in the domestic markets they were not able to lift prices.

Kvaerner rises despite Cunard loss

By GEORGE SIVELL

CUNARD, the QE2 cruise line acquired by Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering group, as part of the Trafalgar House deal, has clocked up more losses but its owners believe it could break even next year.

Cunard remains up for sale, either to a company that wants to take a big shareholding or to an outright buyer but in spite of talks with numerous cruise companies no deal appears imminent. The Norwegians say they will continue to support Cunard and they have repositioned the brand at the top end of the market.

Cunard's headquarters are to be moved from New York to Miami next month, with the transfer of 350 staff. In spite of Cunard losses Kvaerner pre-tax profits rose from 851 million Norwegian crowns to Nkr903 million (£76 million) in the nine months to September 30.

The rise came in spite of a sharp increase in interest charges from Nkr441 million to Nkr879 million associated with the Trafalgar acquisition. Earnings rose from Nkr14.17 a share to Nkr14.87.

The pre-tax profit includes Nkr557 million (Nkr851 million) in gains on the sale of assets. Erik Tonseth, president and chief executive, said: "The underlying group performance continues to improve, although the result in the oil and gas business area especially is not currently satisfactory." Sales rose about 30 per cent.

Royal Bank and C&G lift mortgage rates

THOUSANDS more borrowers face higher mortgage repayments before Christmas, as two more lenders raised their variable rates in response to the bank base increase earlier this month. Cheltenham & Gloucester, a division of Lloyds TSB, and Royal Bank of Scotland both increased their standard variable rates by 0.25 per cent to 8.70 per cent.

The new rates are effective from December 1 for existing customers. However, the Halifax, the largest lender, yesterday said that it would await the outcome of the next Bank of England interest rate meeting before changing its variable rate. The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee meets again on December 3 and December 4, sparing the Halifax's borrowers a rate rise before Christmas.

ICI Australia renamed

ICI AUSTRALIA is changing its name to Orica, after its separation from ICI, its British former parent company, earlier this year. The company said: "Research on the chosen name Orica indicated that people felt the name evoked words such as the future, knowledge, expertise and technology, all of which were considered positive attributes." The new name will be put to shareholders for approval at the December 12 annual meeting, and is proposed to take effect next year.

Oriflame confirms link

ORIFLAME INTERNATIONAL confirmed that it wants to merge with Oresa, its Eastern European offshoot. The merger is to be through a share exchange of six new Oriflame shares for each Oresa share. Both Oriflame and Oresa sell cosmetic products directly to customers. Oresa had turnover of £147 million and pre-tax profit of £29 million for the year to December 31, 1996. Oriflame predicted that the enlarged group's profit for the year to December 31, 1997, will not be less than £39 million.

Morris plans to float

MORRIS GROUP, the privately owned housebuilder based in northwest England, plans to seek a stock market listing this year, it was confirmed yesterday. The company is expected to raise £10 million via a share placing, equivalent to up to 40 per cent of the enlarged equity. In the year to March 31, Morris made an operating profit of £3 million on turnover of £28.1 million and completed 304 houses for sale. Its landbank stands at more than five years at current usage.

Diploma payout held

DIPLOMA, the industrial distribution company, is holding the total dividend at 14.5p a share, with an unchanged 10p final, after a fall in pre-tax profits to £21.6 million from £23.5 million in the year to September 30. The decline came in spite of increased turnover of £258 million (£235 million). Earnings fell to 24.8p from 27p. The company said its key markets of electronics, building and industrial and special steels suffered adverse trading conditions. The shares fell 18p to 235½p.

Whitecroft profits dip

PROFITS at Whitecroft, the lighting and building products company, fell to £2.3 million from £2.7 million in the half year to September 30, a period of extensive restructuring within the group. The company reported earnings per share of 3.7p, down from 4.4p. The interim dividend is held at 1.75p per share. The company said trading profits were slightly higher at £3.28 million, against £3.11 million, in spite of disruption from operational changes.

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Ayling takes the cut-price route



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Someone at British Airways has noticed that not all travelling businessmen have open-ended expense accounts and an extraordinary preoccupation with food. The rapid growth of cut-price flight operators has not merely been fuelled by students who have saved a few pounds and are anxious to explore the world. Almost half the customers who have been taking advantage of the cheap fares now on offer are business people who appreciate the savings they can make by bypassing the major airlines and heading for EasyJet or Devonair.

While the national carriers have been obsessed with image, customers have become increasingly price conscious. While there may be some big-spenders who will take note of the gaudy new BA tail fins and book their ticket accordingly — Lady Thatcher, presumably, boycotting BA unless it will incorporate her novel handkerchief design — many more are likely to be influenced by the chance to reach their destination at a fraction of the normal price.

Robert Ayling, BA's determined chief executive, would be foolish not to try to provide transport for those customers as well as the ones who are more interested in collecting little foil-wrapped packets of peanuts. Having taken on the unions this

summer, in one of the nastier, and most important, industrial disputes to be seen for several years, he is now ready to attack the upstart infiltrators of the airline industry.

Operation Blue Sky will start small but has the potential to become an important part of the company. Ayling is structuring BA for the next century, as he made clear when he did battle with the cabin staff, a sickly bunch, according to the doctors, who so conveniently provided medical get-outs for their absence from work. Joining forces with American Airlines is a strategic plank in his planning and he is fighting the regulatory hurdles that seek to prevent the link.

But he is clearly plotting a framework which should ensure that BA is equipped to cope with the changing demands for air travel. Apart from the new, no frills, airline, there is also the joint venture with Flying Colours, which uses BA pilots but cabin crew from the holiday company to cater to those on jaunts to exotic destinations.

Ayling is at pains to insist that he is not aiming to turn BA into a

virtual airline, with everything outsourced, although his summer bust-up must have made him ponder the delights of having the barest minimum of employees to call his own. Nonetheless, he is clearly prepared to take a radical look at what a modern airline operators should be, and that goes well beyond throwing off the Union Jack.

Bank failure that spells good news

The surge in the Japanese stock market on news that a bank has been closed down seems to be a particularly perverse instance of laughing in the face of adversity. But the fact that the Japanese authorities have allowed a bank to fail is actually good news. Just how good will depend on whether this

development was simply a sop to American pressure or whether it is the start of a genuine, and long overdue, attempt to clear up Japan's financial system.

It is no coincidence that Hokkaido Takushoku Bank was wound up on the day that Larry Summers, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, was in Tokyo. America has been putting intense pressure on Japan and other countries in the region to get their banking houses in order and start on the road to restoring investor confidence. However, the structure of the deal suggests that there is still no political will in Japan to put up taxpayers' money to pay for bailing out banks.

Hokuyo Bank took over Hokkaido Takushoku Bank on government orders. Its bad debt was transferred to the Deposit Insurance Corporation and the

Bank of Japan provided special loans. In effect, the central bank printed yen to bail out a bank rather than acknowledge the awful truth.

Japan's record of cleaning up its banking mess has been extremely poor. It was obvious two years ago that radical action would have to be taken but after two years of officialdom indulging in every imaginable trick and backroom deal to hide the problem and keep banks afloat for appearances' sake, bad loans still amount to an estimated \$150 billion (£94 million). That is equivalent to more than 3 per cent of Japanese gross domestic product, a burden greater than the cost to America of bailing out its savings and loan industry.

This time procrastination simply will not do. If bad loans are not tackled publicly and aggressively, the Nikkei will soon

slump again. Yesterday's rally took the index to just over 16,000. Many analysts think that, at below 15,000, many Japanese banks would be technically insolvent. Japan is in danger of haemorrhaging. A sticking plaster won't work.

Still a sorry tale by man from the Pru

November 16 has apparently been designated National Apology Day. A new range of greetings cards will be ready in time for this very special day next year, some with multiple choice messages, enabling the sender to say sorry for a particular slip with just the tick of a box.

Tony Blair and Sir Peter Davis took to the television screens to launch the day, which will give card manufacturers a useful fill-in between Halloween and Christmas. But please accept my apologies in advance if I sound a little sceptical about the chorus of mea culpas. Sir Peter's apology has been too long coming to be entirely convincing. He may be "very

sorry" now about the hurt occasioned by the Prudential's mis-selling of personal pensions but the victims would have appreciated it if he had been penitent at an earlier stage. Then he might have taken responsibility for ensuring that sufficient muscle was put into righting the wrongs quickly instead of at the laggardly pace that has ensued.

If Sir Peter is truly remorseful, then he will want to guard against the Pru ever misleading its customers again. This will require something rather more permanent than a television interview. The whole ethos of the Pru's sales operation needs to be re-examined. If Sir Peter wishes to be on the side of the angels, and not merely in his TV commercials, this is the issue he must address.

Grinding away

GARRY WESTON has waited since 1991 to make his next major bid after taking over British Sugar, so presumably he will not mind waiting a while longer. Which is just as well: his wish to buy Dalgely's milling business needs Office of Fair Trading approval. Even if the superficial monopoly problem is pushed aside, Dalgely shareholders should not get too excited. Mr Weston spends a lot of money with all the frugality that he spends his own.

Emap pays £100m for Macmillan magazines

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

EMAP, the magazine, radio and exhibitions group, yesterday entered the health publishing market with the £100 million purchase of Macmillan titles such as *Nursing Times* and *Health Service Journal*.

Robin Miller, the Emap chief executive, said yesterday that healthcare was a huge and growing market and Emap intended to develop the Macmillan health services division by launching new titles, expanding exhibitions and conferences and creating new electronic products.

Emap also announced a 27

per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £64.5 million for the six months to September 30, boosted by strong growth in consumer advertising combined with falling paper prices.

Emap is paying £85 million for the Macmillan business plus £17.3 million linked to first-year performance. Operating profit in 1996 was £8.4 million on sales of £27.7 million, a margin of 30 per cent. Macmillan, the publisher, said it decided to sell to concentrate on the more international side of its business — science, general publishing and English language teaching.

Emap also confirmed its general interest in IPC magazines, put up for sale by Reed Elsevier. Mr Miller emphasised his wish to see formal bank documents on the sale, due to be available at the end of this month, before deciding whether to bid.

Mr Miller said the past six months had been "a unique period" for consumer publishing, with a 4 per cent increase in copy sales and a 20 per cent increase in consumer advertising on a like-for-like basis, while paper costs had fallen more than 20 per cent. Operating profit from publishing rose 42 per cent to £28.3 million.

Turnover on continuing businesses rose 4 per cent to £376 million, adjusted earnings per share were up by 28 per cent to 20.4p and the dividend goes up 15 per cent to 4.95p. Analysts are looking for about £140 million pre-tax profit for the full year. Emap shares rose 5p to 906p.



John Rudgard intends to devote his energies to "a couple of business start-ups"

Early departure for Bulmer chief

By DOMINIC WALSH

JOHN RUDGARD, chief executive of HP Bulmer Holdings, surprised the City yesterday by announcing his intention to step down in April after 33 years with the cidemaker.

Mr Rudgard, who has held the post of chief executive for ten years, is to be succeeded by Michael Hughes, former managing director of Guinness Brewing Great Britain and a former UK marketing director for Coca-Cola. Mr Hughes, 47, will join Bulmer in January.

Esmond Bulmer, chairman, said that Mr Rudgard had made "a great contribution" during his career with the company and emphasised that his departure two years early

was at his own request. Mr Rudgard, who is 58 in March, said: "In a sense my work is complete. The company is in great shape and while the market isn't great at the moment, it will come back." The company's shares, unchanged at 420p yesterday, have lost more than 200p since the spring.

He said he intends to devote his energies to his other business interests, including "a couple of business start-ups". Earlier this month he was appointed as a non-executive director of Wyko Group, the industrial services provider, and will soon take on a second non-executive role with an unnamed company.

Sinclair moves on Premiere

SHARES in Sinclair Montrose, the healthcare group, lost nearly a quarter of their value yesterday as it announced plans to take over Premiere Group, a small employment agency that floated 18 months ago. Sinclair Montrose shares fell from 242p to 185p (Paul Durman writes).

The company, which runs

businesses helping hospitals with their staffing needs, will finance at least half the purchase price by issuing new shares at the rate of 22 for every 20 in Premiere.

The share price fell on the paper value of the deal from £10.5 million to about £8 million. Premiere's shareholders will be able to exchange up

to half their holdings for about 268p a share in cash. Premiere's shares stood at 172p before it announced a possible bid approach last month.

It is only three months since Sinclair, listed on the Alternative Investment Market, issued £6.6 million of shares to fund the roll-out of a chain of medical centres.

LCR upbeat over future of rail link after review

By JON ASHWORTH

LONDON & Continental Railways (LCR) has issued an upbeat statement about the future of the £3 billion high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link, but it gave warning about slower than expected growth at Eurostar, its train-operating subsidiary.

Confirming plans to float on the stock market about the middle of next year, LCR said that a wide-ranging business review had confirmed the long-term viability of its business. The 68-mile high-speed link remains on budget and on schedule, with completion due towards the end of 2003. The eight-strong LCR consortium said it was in discussions with seven potential partners whose participation might benefit the physical operation of the project or its financing.

There has been speculation that the link might stop near

the M25 motorway because of the huge costs of the project, which includes six miles of tunnelling from Barking to Islington. LCR said the rail link would be built in a single operation, including the terminus at St Pancras. The preferred contractors for £500 million of tunnelling work will be named by Christmas.

Adam Mills, LCR's chief executive, said: "The process of reappraisal and evaluation has confirmed the long-term viability of LCR's overall business."

The rate of growth in Eurostar passenger numbers is likely to be less rapid in the short term than was anticipated at the time of the LCR bid in 1995. Longer term, the business is deemed financially robust. Eurostar passenger numbers grew 20 per cent in the first nine months of 1997.

ABF seeks to buy Spillers

ASSOCIATED British Foods is seeking clearance from the Office of Fair Trading to acquire the Spillers milling business from Dalgely (See Commentary, this page).

Analysts said they were far from certain whether ABF would be allowed to do the deal. ABF already owns the flour producer Allied Mills in Britain, and the City believes that buying Spillers Milling would take the group over the limits on British ownership unless the grouping were considered an international commodity operation not subject to domestic regulation.

Spillers was put on sale in September with the rest of Dalgely's food ingredients business when Dalgely announced a £300 million corporate restructuring. The deadline for first bids is tomorrow evening.

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Corporate Director

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(BULK CARRIERS THAT BELONGED TO LLOYD BRASILEIRO)
TO BE HELD ON

December 03rd, 1997, at 3.00pm
Praia do Flamengo, 20 - Hotel Novo Mundo
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

VESSELS

DOCEMAR - 75,455 dwt panamax gearless bulk carrier built 84 laid up in Rio de Janeiro since 1994. **DOCEUNA** - 63,718 dwt panamax gearless bulk carrier built 84 laid up in Rio de Janeiro since 1992. **RIO TRAFALGAR** - 64,470 dwt panamax gearless bulk carrier built 84 trading condition. **DOCEFRALIA** - 51,504 dwt panamax gearless bulk carrier built 85 laid up in Rio de Janeiro since 1992. **RIO COARI** - 51,501 dwt panamax gearless bulk carrier built 84 trading condition - presently in Singapore where she will be delivered. **RIO ALFA** - 45,384 dwt handy size geared bulk carrier built 84 laid up in Rio de Janeiro since 1994. **RIO ABBU** - 46,384 dwt handy size geared bulk carrier built 84 laid up in Rio de Janeiro since Jul 1997. **RIO BRANCO** - 38,466 dwt gearless bulk carrier built 78 laid up in Rio de Janeiro since 1994.

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David Grigson, Emap finance chief, left, and Robin Miller

The best of the takeovers may be over, but the sector is unlikely to sink much further than this.

NEW YORK Wall Street stocks remained strong at midday, with the Dow Jones industrial average up 129.17 points at 7,701.65, boosted by a rally in Toyko on optimism about government support for the banking sector.

Closing Prices Page 35

DOLLAR RATES	
Australia	1.436-1.437
Austria	12.20-12.21
Belgium (Com)	35.76-35.77

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

profitable and growing biscuitmaker that will reinforce its market share.

Like other dairy com-

Manufacturers have also been playing hardball to the extent that the average operating margin was below 3 per cent. But do these factors deserve to leave more than 50 per cent of quoted car dealers with shares sitting on half the

48	186	269%	306	414%	73%	189%	737	272%
26%	195%	217%	277%	—	106	212%	257%	385%
19	134%	182	261	356	143	240%	263	321
7	107%	169%	232%	—	168	286	311	551%

per 17 Total: 10065 Calls: 4251 Police: 5834

*Underlying security p

Stockholm	12.730-12.798	3-4 pr	1-4 pr
Oslo	210.57-213.02	1-4 pr	5-7 pr
Lisboa	20.618-20.682	1-4 pr	2-4 pr
Sancti	2.384-2.393	1-4 pr	3-7 pr
Source: Euzel			

Premium + pr. Discount = ds.

ingfisher	1,400	Williams	1,200
ASMO	2,700	Wolsley	500
adbroke	2,900	Woolwich	2,200
and Sees	2,100	Zeneca	1,800

Duke Power	50% 50%	Northern
Dyn & Sonnet	28 27%	Norfolk S&P
Edison	57 67%	Nova S&P
Edison Chem	50% 54%	Norwest Corp
Edison Coal	50% 50%	Occidental F
Edison Corp	44% 44%	Oracle
		Oryx Energy

30%	30%	Whelan	25%	25%
31%	31%	Winn-Dixie	30%	30%
32%	32%	Witco Corp	43%	43%
33%	33%	Woolworth	20%	20%
34%	34%	Wrigley (Wm) Jr	70%	74%
35%	35%	Xerox	75%	73%
36%	36%	Xerox Inc	35%	33%

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Edison	57 67%	Nova S&P
Edison Chem	50% 54%	Norwest Corp
Edison Coal	50% 50%	Occidental F
Edison Corp	44% 44%	Oracle
		Oryx Energy

30%	30%	Whelan	25%	25%
31%	31%	Winn-Dixie	30%	30%
32%	32%	Witco Corp	43%	43%
33%	33%	Woolworth	20%	20%
34%	34%	Wrigley (Wm) Jr	70%	74%
35%	35%	Xerox	75%	73%
36%	36%	Xerox Inc	35%	33%

Arabian's way

It is said that three words convey the same meaning in every language. Taxi: a means of transport in cities. Hallelujah: a religious exclamation. Expo: a mix of trade fair and Disneyland that gazes public funds and ends its days rotting in the backyard of whichever country had the misfortune to play host.

Past failures forgotten as the UK heads fearlessly for Expo

Take Expo 92, for example. Set in Seville, it was billed as an extravaganza in which each country built a stall, filled it with feats of national innovation and wowed the crowds with its home-grown ingenuity. In spite of being in the depths of recession, Britain was not about to be left out. The Department of Trade and Industry ploughed £20 million of public funds into its effort — it commissioned a glass and steel building the size of Westminster Abbey, which the Government hailed as representing "the rebirth of Britain".

That was asking for trouble. Only 1.5 million people visited the British pavilion — one million fewer than the DTI had hoped for. The Spanish national audit office found the £90 million profit claimed by the Socialist government was, in fact, a £200 million loss.

Its plans for regeneration a flop, Britain decided to ship home its multimillion-pound

site, piece by piece, or sell it for scrap, if no home was found. Expo became Eurospeak for "white elephant".

Now, it is Expo time again and neither Britain nor Portugal, next year's host, is disheartened by the legacy of financial disaster they have inherited. Portugal is confident it can avoid the mistakes of Seville and is ploughing £1.5 billion into ensuring that it will succeed where all the other Expos have failed.

Nor is Britain's DTI fazed by the barrage of criticism it suffered last time. Rather than see Expo as a means of commercial suicide, it has pledged £3.1 million of public funds to set up its own stall and once again try its hand at showing the world the best of British.

It is taking the view that Expo is all about image — and the Portuguese Expo is a chance to try its hand at some brand reinvention. With a much more limited budget, the scope for financial catastrophe will be much reduced and, this

time maybe, Britain will play its part in a meaner, leaner Expo series.

Britain will be competing for the hearts and minds of an estimated 2.5 million visitors to its exhibit. It will be one of 142 countries that will be vying for the 8.5 million people that Portugal expects to visit Expo. The centrepiece of the New Britain image is the national day, where much of the DTI's

specialises in masterminding one-off events.

He intends to project images of British business, with their help and sponsorship, anywhere he can in the 150-acre site. He talks cryptically about "earth, wind, fire and water", and leaving everyone in no doubt about the things that make Britain great. He is joined by Roger Westbrook, British Ambassador to Porto-

gal, who openly jokes that he will be recalled and sent to govern the Falkland Islands as a punishment if Britain's Expo effort flops.

Both are keen to ensure that the Britain projecting itself at the Portuguese Expo will not be the proud, old empire-building country that gleefully joined in Spain's historical naval-gazing five years ago. This time, he says, Britain will

where more than 5,000 people will live and work alongside the world's largest aquarium. Expo will, the organisers hope, go on to become Lisbon's brave new world.

This is an ambitious plan. The State is spending £620 million, which it hopes to reclaim through tax within eight years. It expects that Expo will bring £550 million of extra tourism revenue next year alone — enough to make up a third of the forecast 3 per cent GDP growth.

The Expo authorities are not short of critics. Portuguese newspapers question the usefulness of mammoth fairs in an age of instant communication. And the success of the venture largely depends on hitting the target of 15 million visits, which relies on some 6.5 million people paying for entry on two days.

They are quick to remind people that such international trade fairs left the Crystal Palace in London and the Eiffel Tower in Paris. But anyone can throw a good party, given enough money; the real test will come if the banks are still happy in five years' time. To prove itself a success, Portugal will have to go further than lay on the greatest show on earth.

FRASER NELSON

With a limited budget, the DTI effort may be leaner and meaner this time

money will be used to project images of British business across the whole site. Rather than rely on Britain's well-worn march of history, which was the mistake made at Expo 92, the UK delegation has picked Angus Farquhar, a Glasgow artist who made his name in Test Department — an experimental 1980s rock band with a penchant for loud drumming — and now

gal, who openly jokes that he will be recalled and sent to govern the Falkland Islands as a punishment if Britain's Expo effort flops.

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BA goes in search of blue skies with no-frills travel operation

Jon Ashworth finds rival low-cost airlines disturbed by the threat from Britain's major carrier

In America, low-cost carriers speak for about 30 per cent of the domestic air travel market — nearly a third of all passengers. In other words, operators such as Southwest Airlines, Tower Air and ValuJet (renamed AirTran following the Florida DC-9 crash) have steadily encroached on the traditional carriers since America opened its domestic skies to competition in 1978. Southwest alone has 250 Boeing 737s in its fleet — clear evidence of the lasting appeal of the no-frills package.

On April 1, the European Commission wrapped up its own programme of deregulation, allowing any European Union airline to start domestic services in another member country. The past three years has seen the launch of a number of low-cost carriers, including Ryanair, flying from Stansted, and Virgin Express, based in Brussels. UK operators include Debonair and EasyJet, both based in Luton. Business travellers are an important source of custom.

The low-cost market between the UK and other European destinations has grown from nothing to 5 per cent in just two years, and the US experience suggests that there is a lot more left to go round. That, at any rate, was the argument being put forward yesterday by British Airways, which confirmed its rivals' worst fears by announcing the launch of its own low-cost venture.

Codenamed "Blue Sky", the carrier will launch in the first half of 1998, operating 737-300s out of Stansted, and serving destinations (initially) in Italy, Spain, Scandinavia, France and Germany. It will be run as a separate business with its own name, identity, management and employees. More than 150 jobs will be created in the first year, spread

between pilots, cabin crew and telephone sales.

From the perspective of its low-cost rivals, BA has only one aim in launching its new service: to drive them out of the skies. It is seeking to "lock up" Stansted, grabbing the best slots and gates. Ryanair is directly affected; as is another Stansted-based carrier, Air UK, owned by KLM.

Some see a union-busting angle in all this. BA has succeeded in pushing through less-favourable pay and conditions at Euro Gatwick and British Airways Regional. Scapellato, a "Trojan Horse" element in Blue Sky, is warning to maintain BA pilots and crew to "see the line or we go outside". This all fits with the virtual airline theory, in which doom-mongers foresee BA degenerating into little more than a brand, with all the main functions parcelled out to outside operators.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, has rejected the virtual airline argument more times than he cares to remember, but it stubbornly refuses to go away. Any fresh evidence of outsourcing is seized on with glee, and so it is with BA's no-frills carrier. Pouring cold water on some of this, Blue Sky has recognised the British Airline Pilots' Association (Balpa) — a move not embraced by all low-cost operators.

Rivals were swift to question BA's motives yesterday. Franco Mancassola, chairman and chief executive of Debonair, said Blue Sky was a "warning light" to consumers, who could see air fares rise if BA succeeded in squeezing the low end of the market. He said: "I believe very strongly in competition, but if BA is going to use the brute force of their financial system to eliminate small competitors, then they should be stopped."



Franco Mancassola, Debonair chairman: a "warning light" to consumers



Stelios Haji-Ioannou, EasyJet chairman: ready to raise market issue in Brussels

Mr Mancassola added: "Deregulation was created to give the consumer a choice — not for people already in a position of strength to take advantage of every single scrap, like a vulture does in the desert."

Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, said the move was "typical" of BA's approach to business. He said: "They hate competition

and Europe's new low-cost carriers are genuine competition when compared to BA's dominant and monopolistic control of the markets at Heathrow, Gatwick and other regional airports."

Mr Branson said Virgin would support other low-cost carriers in any petition they might make to the European Commission. EasyJet, run by Stelios Haji-Ioannou, said it

would raise the issue in Brussels if there was evidence of an abuse of a dominant market position.

Barbara Cassani, Blue Sky's chief executive-elect, remained aloof from the debate yesterday, saying only: "I welcome and embrace competition."

Ms Cassani spent six months considering whether BA wanted to enter the low-cost market, and concluded

that there was indeed scope for further demystifying the business of travel.

Blue Sky will operate eight 737s to begin with — at a cost of about £20 million a year in leasing charges, according to analysts. BA is not giving out figures but payroll costs will probably add another £4 million a year. All this is very small beer to a company with sales of £8.4 billion in 1996.

The carrier will sell direct to the public, bypassing travel agents. Bookings will be made by credit card over the phone, with receipts sent out in the post. Tickets will be issued at the airport with a minimum of fuss. This has implications for travel agents, who are facing a squeeze as it is. BA announced yesterday that it is cutting commission on tickets sold by travel agents in the UK with effect from January 1. Commission on international ticket sales falls from 9 to 7 per cent.

Missings aside, the BA launch should be good for consumers — in the short term, at least. Debonair, for one, quotes return fares of £69 on routes to Madrid and Copenhagen. BA quotes a full economy return fare (ex Heathrow) of £498 to Madrid and £464 to Copenhagen. The one drawback is Stansted, which has a narrow catchment area, and is not ideal as a destination, despite good rail links from London Liverpool Street.

Chris Tarry, aviation analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, says that BA, in choosing Stansted, is "putting a flag on the map", looking ten to 15 years ahead. Stansted is set to grow in importance as Heathrow and Gatwick move towards saturation. There is an element of dipping its toe in the water, seeing how things develop.

There is no guarantee that BA will make a success of it. Between 80 and 85 per cent of new carriers launched in America post-deregulation went out of business. European low-cost operators additionally have charter airlines to contend with, making their task all the more difficult.

MARKETING

When black and white become grey

When Guinness called time on its cryptic but successful "black and white" advertising campaign last week, it became the latest in a succession of household names that have recently written off big investments in well-known and popular campaigns.

Barclaycard has just waved goodbye to the £100 million or so it spent on a seven-year campaign starring Rowan Atkinson. Last month Nestlé ended a ten-year soap opera for coffee which cost a similar amount. And Cadbury is shortly due to kill off the "man in black" campaign for its Milk Tray assortments after a 30-year run and a spend of tens of millions of pounds.

With increasingly competitive marketplaces, fragmenting media and pressure from shareholders for immediate results, it is not surprising that advertisers seem to be increasingly turning to shortburst tactical campaigns at the expense of a more long-term approach. This can be exacerbated by pressure for change from within the company. Marketing directors spend less than two years on average in their posts before moving on, so they need to make their mark quickly. Changing the advertising is a visible way to do this.

But companies let it happen at their peril. For paradoxically in an area of business noted for its obsession with novelty and impact, long-running campaigns are what every advertiser should be searching for. The reason is that they confer a place in consumers' hearts that mere money cannot buy. "They give you a cumulative investment which far exceeds the value of each year's spend," said Nigel Clare, managing director of Heinz's European grocery division.

He should know — his company has used the phrase "57 varieties" in its advertising and promotions for more than a century. Given the considerable benefits of long-term properties, you might wonder why they should ever be disposed of? There is no single answer. But the most obvious reason is consumer boredom — probably the key factor behind the demise of the Gold Blend saga. "The basic principle behind advertising is that you have to keep people interested. Long-term campaigns add familiarity, but this can turn into contempt," said Stephen Carter, chief executive of J Walter Thomp-

son, the advertising agency. This shouldn't be confused with the boredom of the advertising agency, which often sees running old strategies as an insult to its creative integrity. "In those circumstances I'll change my agency before I change my campaign," said the managing director of one well known brand company.

But undoubtedly the strongest reason for change is when the property or campaign holds back the brand. In Barclaycard's case, said John Eaton, managing director, the Richard Latham character sold the idea that it was "a good support, a form of insurance for when things got difficult".

But, said Mr Eaton, consumers were now more financially sophisticated and there was more competition, so we wanted a more every-day approach. "The advertising strategy is part of the brand strategy which is a key part of the total business strategy. We couldn't move the business on until we had changed the advertising."

Cadbury faced a similar problem with the "man in black". Alan Palmer, marketing director, said: "He was developed in the Sixties. Since then relationships between men and women have changed to become less courtly. And there is a new competitive set facing boxed chocolates."

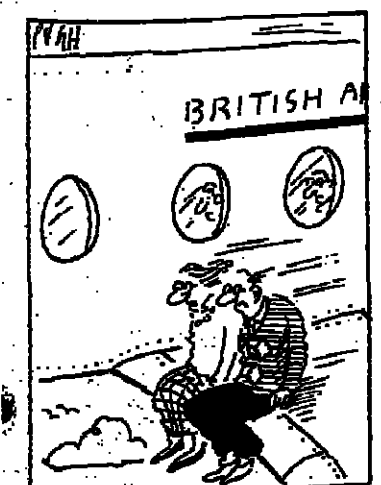
It seems there is a trade-off between the prudent success of the existing approach which may be saying the wrong things and the impact of a new campaign which can lack the resonance and leverage of something that consumers have known all their lives.

Mr Carter said: "Ideally you want an advertising campaign to be both a wife and a mistress simultaneously." In a few rare cases this can happen. The Esso tiger, PG Chappin and Andrex puppy are all examples of campaigns that have lasted decades and remained relatively fresh. In most cases the arguments for and against pensioning off your old properties will be delicately balanced. "When there is doubt, the onus of proof should be on the agents for change," said Carter. "Long-running campaigns give such benefits that they should be held innocent until proven guilty."

ALEX BENADY

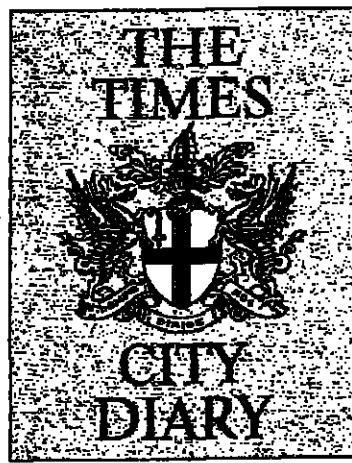
Fabian's way

MALCOLM MATSON was at Mansion House on Friday for the annual dinner of the Worshipful Company of Coopers, of which he is a member, in the presence of the Lord Mayor. He then published a pamphlet along with the Fabian Society that suggested the entire Corporation of London, and the system by which Mayors and other dignitaries are elected, should be swept away. Which would rather have put the mockers on Friday's dinner, would it not? Some conflict of interest?



Not so, responds Matson. "I see no role for the Coopers Company or any other company in local government." Under his plans, the Mansion House would be available for hire by anyone. And the Coopers would be restricted to the sort of good works he and they are currently engaged in with Tower Hamlets Borough Council, providing sheltered housing. But the Fabian Society, surely, is a bit left wing to carry much weight with the Corporation? "That's your criticism of the Corporation. I would hope they aren't as bigoted as that."

THE Matson blast has stirred up Guildhall, which normally does not react publicly to criticism. Judith Mayhew, chairman of policy and resources and successor to the omnipresent Michael Cassidy, points to the 10,000 acres of land the Corporation owns or operates around London. "There is some thought that there is this huge pot of gold available," she says. "But a lot of that is tied up in open space." As well as owning most of Epping Forest and Highgate Wood, among other bits and bobs, Guildhall also operates Hampstead Heath. Given the Government's stated need to build four million new homes over the next few years, scrap the Corporation and



much of this will end up with the developers, she says.

Ikea of the air

BARBARA CASSANI, the chief executive of the new British Airways budget airline, may regret her suggestion that this will become the Ikea of the air. Because this suggests that BA's new venture will indeed be cheap. And impossible to reach because of road works and heavy traffic. The bar park will be full. You will never find the flight you want, or any staff who can tell you where it might be. And the planes, all of which will have silly names like Snorl and Fergel, will not be customer friendly.

Name game

A NEW thriller features a beleaguered Prime Minister terrified that a scandal from his business past will ruin his career. The PM's name is Martin Taylor. You might think the lawyers would spot this one fairly early on, but this is just what has happened in Dublin. *Betrayal*, by Irish senator and academic Maurice Manning, is about an Irish Taoiseach haunted by his past — oh, the choice, the choice. Publication had to be stopped because the fictional figure in question was Thomas Mulcahy, which happens to be the name of the highly respected group chief executive of Allied Irish Banks. Now the book has finally been published, with the name changed to Jack Mulcahy.

KENNETH CLARKE gets the deputy chairmanship of BAT Industries. Other Tory grandees are gradually filling up slots in the private sector. Yesterday it was announced that Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, has lined up his own little earner, as non-executive director of the Fleming Claverhouse Investment Trust. Hurry, stocks are going fast.

Turkish delight

THE rehabilitation of Asil Nadir: he has set up a new business in Turkey.

having decided six months ago that it was safe to shift there from the outlaw state of northern Cyprus. He and four associates have put five billion Turkish lira into AS-Na Holding, which means it is worth, ooh, all of £16,000. Turkey is a fellow Nato member and knocking on the doors of the EU. We have no formal extradition treaty with Turkey, but we normally exchange criminal suspects. Except for this particular bail-jumper, it seems, which only strengthens suspicions that Nadir has done some sort of deal with the Turkish Government.

MARTIN WALLER



Asil Nadir has set up a new business in his adopted country

LAW 39 Court of Appeal peal

over following the inspectors' determination of the appeal

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										

Shares rise in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
150	148	Alkermes	148.50	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
145	143	Alkermes (A&L)	143.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
140	138	Alkermes	138.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
135	133	Alkermes	133.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
130	128	Alkermes	128.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
125	123	Alkermes	123.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
120	118	Alkermes	118.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
115	113	Alkermes	113.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
110	108	Alkermes	108.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
105	103	Alkermes	103.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
100	98	Alkermes	98.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
95	93	Alkermes	93.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
90	88	Alkermes	88.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
85	83	Alkermes	83.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
80	78	Alkermes	78.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
75	73	Alkermes	73.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
70	68	Alkermes	68.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
65	63	Alkermes	63.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
60	58	Alkermes	58.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
55	53	Alkermes	53.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
50	48	Alkermes	48.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
45	43	Alkermes	43.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
40	38	Alkermes	38.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
35	33	Alkermes	33.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
30	28	Alkermes	28.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
25	23	Alkermes	23.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
20	18	Alkermes	18.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
15	13	Alkermes	13.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
10	8	Alkermes	8.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
5	3	Alkermes	3.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
BANKS						
150	148	Bank of America	148.50	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
145	143	Bank of America	143.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
140	138	Bank of America	138.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
135	133	Bank of America	133.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
130	128	Bank of America	128.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
125	123	Bank of America	123.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
120	118	Bank of America	118.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
115	113	Bank of America	113.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
110	108	Bank of America	108.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
105	103	Bank of America	103.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
100	98	Bank of America	98.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
95	93	Bank of America	93.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
90	88	Bank of America	88.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
85	83	Bank of America	83.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
80	78	Bank of America	78.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
75	73	Bank of America	73.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
70	68	Bank of America	68.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
65	63	Bank of America	63.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
60	58	Bank of America	58.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
55	53	Bank of America	53.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
50	48	Bank of America	48.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
45	43	Bank of America	43.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
40	38	Bank of America	38.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
35	33	Bank of America	33.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
30	28	Bank of America	28.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
25	23	Bank of America	23.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
20	18	Bank of America	18.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
15	13	Bank of America	13.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
10	8	Bank of America	8.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
5	3	Bank of America	3.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST						
150	148	Brewery	148.50	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
145	143	Brewery	143.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
140	138	Brewery	138.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
135	133	Brewery	133.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
130	128	Brewery	128.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
125	123	Brewery	123.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
120	118	Brewery	118.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
115	113	Brewery	113.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
110	108	Brewery	108.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
105	103	Brewery	103.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
100	98	Brewery	98.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
95	93	Brewery	93.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
90	88	Brewery	88.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
85	83	Brewery	83.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
80	78	Brewery	78.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
75	73	Brewery	73.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
70	68	Brewery	68.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
65	63	Brewery	63.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
60	58	Brewery	58.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
55	53	Brewery	53.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
50	48	Brewery	48.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
45	43	Brewery	43.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
40	38	Brewery	38.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
35	33	Brewery	33.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
30	28	Brewery	28.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
25	23	Brewery	23.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
20	18	Brewery	18.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
15	13	Brewery	13.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
10	8	Brewery	8.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
5	3	Brewery	3.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS						
150	148	Diversified	148.50	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
145	143	Diversified	143.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
140	138	Diversified	138.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
135	133	Diversified	133.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
130	128	Diversified	128.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
125	123	Diversified	123.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
120	118	Diversified	118.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
115	113	Diversified	113.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
110	108	Diversified	108.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
105	103	Diversified	103.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
100	98	Diversified	98.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
95	93	Diversified	93.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
90	88	Diversified	88.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
85	83	Diversified	83.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
80	78	Diversified	78.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
75	73	Diversified	73.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
70	68	Diversified	68.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
65	63	Diversified	63.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
60	58	Diversified	58.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
55	53	Diversified	53.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
50	48	Diversified	48.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
45	43	Diversified	43.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
40	38	Diversified	38.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
35	33	Diversified	33.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
30	28	Diversified	28.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
25	23	Diversified	23.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
20	18	Diversified	18.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
15	13	Diversified	13.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
10	8	Diversified	8.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
5	3	Diversified	3.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT						
150	148	Building	148.50	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
145	143	Building	143.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
140	138	Building	138.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
135	133	Building	133.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
130	128	Building	128.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
125	123	Building	123.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
120	118	Building	118.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
115	113	Building	113.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
110	108	Building	108.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
105	103	Building	103.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
100	98	Building	98.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
95	93	Building	93.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
90	88	Building	88.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
85	83	Building	83.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
80	78	Building	78.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
75	73	Building	73.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
70	68	Building	68.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
65	63	Building	63.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
60	58	Building	58.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
55	53	Building	53.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
50	48	Building	48.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
45	43	Building	43.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
40	38	Building	38.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
35	33	Building	33.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
30	28	Building	28.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
25	23	Building	23.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
20	18	Building	18.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
15	13	Building	13.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
10	8	Building	8.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
5	3	Building	3.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
ELECTRICITY						
150	148	Electricity	148.50	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
145	143	Electricity	143.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
140	138	Electricity	138.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
135	133	Electricity	133.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
130	128	Electricity	128.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
125	123	Electricity	123.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
120	118	Electricity	118.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
115	113	Electricity	113.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
110	108	Electricity	108.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
105	103	Electricity	103.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
100	98	Electricity	98.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
95	93	Electricity	93.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
90	88	Electricity	88.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
85	83	Electricity	83.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
80	78	Electricity	78.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
75	73	Electricity	73.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
70	68	Electricity	68.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
65	63	Electricity	63.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
60	58	Electricity	58.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
55	53	Electricity	53.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
50	48	Electricity	48.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
45	43	Electricity	43.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
40	38	Electricity	38.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
35	33	Electricity	33.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
30	28	Electricity	28.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
25	23	Electricity	23.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
20	18	Electricity	18.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
15	13	Electricity	13.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
10	8	Electricity	8.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
5	3	Electricity	3.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
ELECTRONIC & ELECT						
150	148	Electronic	148.50	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
145	143	Electronic	143.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
140	138	Electronic	138.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
135	133	Electronic	133.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
130	128	Electronic	128.00	+0.50	+0.3	12.5
125	123	Electronic	123.00	+0.50	+0.3	

Failure to comply with order

Enforcing local planning policy

Star News Shops v Stafford Refrigeration Ltd: UPO (UK) Ltd and Another (Third Parties): Unité Hermetique (Fourth Party)

Before Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Robert Walker
[Judgment October 30]

It was wrong in principle to strike out a party's defence for breach of a non-peremptory order, although Order 24, rule 1(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court did give jurisdiction to make such an order.

Where a party had failed to comply with a bare order for discovery, not expressed as a final or "unless" order, the proper order was to grant an extension of time expressed in an "unless" order.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal against a decision of Judge Gills in Birmingham District Registry by the fourth party, Unité Hermetique, against the dismissal of its defence to fourth party proceedings brought by the third parties, UPO (UK) Ltd, and its associated company, Askal Oy.

The judges were quashed and judgment against the fourth party set aside.

The third parties had supplied a refrigeration unit to the defendant

for installation into the plaintiffs' shop premises where it had caught fire. The fourth party had supplied the compressor to the third parties, who alleged that the compressor was responsible for the fire.

In an action for damages for breach of contract and negligence arising from a fire in a refrigeration unit supplied to the plaintiffs, the defence to a fourth party notice was dismissed under Order 24 rule 1(1) for failure to comply with an order for specific discovery not expressed in final or "unless" form. Judgment was given for the third parties.

In the main action, judgment was given for the plaintiffs, and for the defendant against the third parties. Liability for damages therefore rested with the fourth party, which appealed against the dismissal of its defence.

Order 24, rule 1(1) provides: "(1) If any party who is required by any order made thereunder, to make discovery of documents... fails to comply... the court may make such order as it thinks just including an order that the defence be struck out, or... an order that the defence be struck out and judgment be entered accordingly."

Mr Ronald Justice, QC and Mr Alexander Hill-Smith for the

fourth party; Mr Michael de Navarro, QC, for the third parties.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the effect of the judge's order was to debar the fourth party from advancing an arguable defence and left it vulnerable to the outcome of the main action and the third party proceedings.

To do so was a misuse of the power within Order 24 rule 1(1). That order did not secure compliance relating to discovery but punished the fourth party for not having complied with a "bare" order in time. The circumstances were not so exceptional as to justify such an order.

At the hearing, the third parties should have asked for an order striking out the defence unless within a certain time the fourth party had produced a discovery.

That would then have become a peremptory order of the court which, if not ultimately complied with, would have justified the ultimate sanction.

The fact that discovery was not yet complete and that there was no evidence justifying the default were not sufficient reason for imposing the sanction of strike out. The order for discovery made in this case was not peremptory. In *Hytec Information Systems Ltd v Coventry City Council* (The Times December 31, 1996) Lord Justice

Auld described an "unless" order as "the end of the line for a party who has failed to comply with it".

The fourth party had not reached the end of the line merely because it failed to comply with one previous order which was not a final or "unless" order.

Although Order 24, rule 1(1) gave the judge jurisdiction to make the order, he none the less erred in principle in striking out a defence for breach of a non-peremptory order. He should have made a final or "unless" order and plainly exercised his discretion wrongly.

The judge had an inherent power to make an "unless" order in the absence of a specific application supported by affidavit. When considering the third parties' application the judge was required to consider the fourth party's position and had power to grant any necessary extension.

It would not have been appropriate to deny the fourth party an extension, where the denial would deprive it of the right to defend itself, because of a procedural default, even if unjustified, caused the third parties no prejudice which could not be compensated by an award of costs.

Lord Justice Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Hextall Esksine, Watmores.

Regina v Leominster District Council, Ex parte Potteryary

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment October 28]

Whether or not a development was in accordance with local planning policy for the purposes of section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, was a matter for the local planning authority and not a question of law for the court on judicial review.

Furthermore, a planning authority was entitled to consider the likelihood of enforcement action at the time when an application for retrospective planning permission for a building erected without planning permission was before it and to take into account the existence of the unlawfully erected building as a point in favour of granting permission.

The Court of Appeal so stated, allowing an appeal by the local planning authority, Leominster District Council, from the decision of Mr Malcolm Spence, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on January 16, 1997, whereby he granted an application for judicial review by Patricia Potteryary and quashed the authority's decision to grant retrospective planning permission for a winter lambing shed on a neighbouring property.

The applicant lived at Longford House, bordering on the curtilage of the house was Mousenatch Farm. Both properties were within the Kingsland Conservation Area. The operations at the farm included sheep farming.

In 1995 a livestock shed made of steel and wood was erected within the curtilage of the house, close to the boundary of Longford House with its long side running approximately parallel with the curtilage boundary and between 10 and 20 metres from it.

The shed was used for the storage of sheep and was used by the applicant's land, the back garden of Longford House. The authority did not serve an enforcement notice but invited an application for retrospective planning consent for its retention. The authority granted permission on condition that the shed was to be used for winter lambing only and that it was not to be used for any other purpose whatever without the written consent of the authority.

Section 54A provides: "Where, in making any determination under the Planning Acts, regard was to be had to the development plan, the determination shall be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise."

Miss Nathalie Lieven for the

authority; Mr Ian Dove for the applicant.

LORD SCHIEMANN said that the applicant's case was, inter alia, that the authority when deciding to grant permission gave weight to a factor to which it was not entitled to give weight, namely that the lambing shed had already been built.

In *Edinburgh City Council v Secretary of State for Scotland* (The Times October 31, 1997), a case concerned with the Scottish equivalent of section 54A, Lord Clyde dismissed the impact of section 54A on the duties of the planning authority and what the approach of the court ought to be on any judicial review application.

What Lord Clyde said, in his Lordship's judgment, represented the law of England as well as that of Scotland.

Lord Clyde had said: "The section has not touched the well established distinction in principle between those matters which are properly within the jurisdiction of the decision maker and those matters in which the court can properly intervene. It has introduced a requirement with which the decision maker must comply namely the recognition of the authority to be given to the development plan."

"It had thus introduced a potential ground on which the decision maker could be faulted were he to fail to give effect to that requirement. But beyond that it still leaves the decision maker and those matters in which the court can properly intervene. It has introduced a requirement with which the decision maker must comply namely the recognition of the authority to be given to the development plan."

His Lordship therefore rejected the submission that a planning authority was never entitled to consider the likelihood of enforcement action at the time when the application for retrospective planning permission for a building erected without planning permission was before it.

It was not rare that buildings were put up without the appro-

priate planning permission. Sometimes there was no planning objection at all. Sometimes there was an insuperable objection. There were many situations between the two ends of a continuum.

There were situations where the authority would not have given permission for the development if asked for permission for precisely that which had been built, but the development was not so objectionable that it was reasonable to require it to be pulled down.

To require that would be a disproportionate sanction for the breach of the law concerned. That was why Parliament had imposed the requirement of expediency.

What weight the authority gave to the existence of the building was a matter for the authority. There were policy reasons of the type identified by Mr Dove for not giving much weight to the existence of a building put up without the necessary planning permission but those would not prevail in every case, only in some.

His Lordship accepted that an authority might say that it was presently inexpedient to issue an enforcement notice but it wanted to keep its options open and see how things developed.

In such a case the existence of the building could hardly weigh in favour of the application for retrospective planning permission and for to grant it would result in the authority no longer keeping its options open.

However, there could equally be cases where the authority could say that, while it would not have granted the permission for that precise building there, it was not expedient to require it to be pulled down. Circumstances varied infinitely.

Lord Justice Robert Walker and Lord Justice Simon Brown gave judgments agreeing with Lord Justice Schiemann.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard, Daniels Ferraby & Co, Tewkesbury.

It was not rare that buildings were put up without the appro-

Council cannot change school in statement

Regina v Havering London Borough Council, Ex parte K

Before Mr Justice Sedley

[Judgment August 20]

Once a particular school has been specified in a child's special educational needs statement, it was not open to the education authority in deciding whether or not it should provide school transport for the child to take the view that the child's needs would be met at other nearby schools.

Want of transport was capable of being an unavoidable cause within the terms of section 44(7) of the Education Act 1944 for the absence of a child from a boarding school.

However, in the instant case, the fact that the child's mother found it impossible because of business problems to take the child to and from school did not amount in law to an "unavoidable cause" so as to make it incumbent on the council to consider it necessary to provide transport under section 50(1) of the 1944 Act, since it affected the child only secondarily.

Mr Justice Sedley so held in the Queen's Bench Division on application by the mother of a child aged 10, quashing by way of judicial review the refusal of Havering London Borough Coun-

cil on April 25 and July 25, 1997 to grant the child assistance with travel to school.

Section 44 of the 1944 Act provides: "(1) If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence."

"(7) In proceedings for an offence under this section in respect of a child who is a boarder at the school at which he is a registered pupil, the child shall be taken to have failed to attend regularly at the school if he is absent from it without leave during any part of the school term at a time when he was not prevented from being present by reason of sickness or any unavoidable cause."

Section 50 provides: "(1) A local education authority shall make such arrangements for the provision of transport and otherwise as they consider necessary, or as the Secretary of State may direct, for the purpose of facilitating the attendance of persons receiving education - (a) at schools..."

Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC and Mr Clive Rawlings for the applicant; Mr Nigel Giffin for the council.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY said the special educational needs statement

relating to a severely dyslexic boy aged 10 had provided that he would attend as a weekly boarder at a specified school on the Kent coast, the mother to be responsible for transport to and from the school at her own expense.

The local authority had opposed the statement on the basis that any of three mainstream schools in Havering was adequate for the boy.

The mother eventually found it impossible to comply with the transport requirement specified in the local authority to make provision instead. The local authority declined to provide the boy with transport, on the basis that the statement explicitly made the mother responsible.

The mother took the issue to the school attendance panel which decided that the council had no duty to provide transport under section 52(5) or under sections 44 and 50 of the Education Act 1944 since the boy could be accommodated in local schools.

The panel had refused to make a discretionary grant of free transport or a contribution to the cost of transport and the mother had sought judicial review of that decision.

In his Lordship's judgment, the choice by the special educational

needs tribunal of the specified school was not predicated, dependent or conditional on the mother's providing transport so that the statement of special educational needs was not undone by the mother's inability to do so.

The mother had been accorded a proper opportunity to put her side of the case to the attendance panel although she had not been allowed to be present.

The term "unavoidable cause" in section 44(7) of the 1944 Act was capable of including want of transport. However, the mother's inability to provide transport did not amount in law to an "unavoidable cause" so as to make it incumbent on the council to consider it necessary to provide transport under section 50(1) of the 1944 Act, since it affected the child only secondarily.

The school attendance panel had taken its decision on the basis that the child could and should be at one of the three mainstream schools in Havering. It had no right to do so, and since its conclusion was based on extraneous considerations it should be quashed and the decision retaken.

Solicitors: Ashok Patel & Co, Bournemouth; Mr Michael J. Tink, Havering.

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BRIEFLY NOTED
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MUSIC: A gala on Saturday inaugurated the £5.7 million Hall for Cornwall, a project that has converted the 150-year-old shell of the old City Hall in Truro into a 1,000-seat performing space: concert hall, rock venue and theatre rolled into one. Built with funds from the lottery, Europe, and local donations, the hall will offer mixed fare: the opening concert was a classical affair conducted by Sir David Willcocks, but future attractions range from the Rambert Dance Company and English Touring Opera to the Band of the Coldstream Guards and Danny La Rue.

SCULPTURE: Those old copies of *Punch* may be banished from waiting rooms for ever. If dentists follow the example of Edinburgh's new Dental Institute, opened last Thursday at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, the Institute has commissioned four installation artists to brighten up patients' visits. Stephen Skyring, for instance, has created a wall from transparencies of popcorn which are described as "teasingly reminiscent of teeth", while Anita Wohlén has embedded bite marks (taken from institute staff and the general public) into walls, and added "steel cut-outs, reminiscent of fillings" into a "gum-pink rubber floor". For this the Scottish Arts Council paid £118,000 of lottery money. Whether the installations soothe patients' nerves or set their teeth on edge remains to be seen.

THEATRE: The Old Vic has been temporarily reprieved — for a laugh. Instead of going dark on December 6 when the Peter Hall Company's season comes to a close, the theatre — which has been put up for sale by its Canadian owners Ed and David Mirvish — will stay open until January 3, as the Russian clown Slava Polunin plays a three-week Christmas season with his company. West End insiders see the booking as a hopeful sign that the Mirvishes will not sell the theatre immediately.

MUSEUMS: After 26 years in Burlington Gardens off Piccadilly, the Museum of Mankind is to close on December 31. That will allow the British Museum's Department of Ethnography, which runs the place, to pack up the 300,000 items ready for their return to the main BM site in Bloomsbury, where new permanent galleries are being prepared.

Mary not so contrary

POP

Mary J. Blige
Wembley Arena

It is not only the Spice Girls who get booted off stage. It happened to Mary J. Blige the first time she played London. But that was four years and several million album sales ago and, while the self-styled "queen of hip hop soul" remains a famously petulant interviewee, her stage manner at Wembley Arena on Saturday was little short of gushing. "Thank you London for all your support," she said. "Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you."

In truth, the moments when she could have said anything more were few and far between. From the minute Blige came marching on stage amid a fusillade of exploding fireworks, wearing little more than a dark blue corset, knee-length hoots and wraparound shades, there was scarcely a pause in this tightly scripted rollercoaster of a show.

Songs were telescoped one into another, giving that vaguely unsettling impression, endemic to the soul revue format, that the performers could never quite be bothered to get to the end of anything. And during Blige's frequent costume changes, the baton was immediately picked up by either her trio of backing singers or an energetic MC who exhorted us all to get out and buy Blige's current album, while hurling copies of it into the front rows.

Subtlety, then, is not Blige's forte. With a Manhattan skyline as the backdrop, she and her four ever-present dancers armed themselves with walk-

ing sticks and waltzed up and down a flight of steps as if in a Broadway musical during *I'm Goin' Down*. To signal the softer mood of *Everything* she changed into a white jumpsuit and sang the song literally up to her neck in dry ice.

Yet despite all the glamour and glitz, Blige retained a perceptible frisson of street credibility. While most black artists have lost touch with their original core audience by the time they are mainstream enough to play a venue as big as Wembley, Blige's crowd was still 50 per cent black. The mixture of hip hop, swingbeat and funk rhythms which underpinned numbers such as *Reminisce* and *Love is all We Need* gave her music a strong contemporary urban feel. And, most importantly, Blige's voice retained the throaty, frayed-at-the-edges quality and gospel singer's range which has earned her all those flattering comparisons with the queen of (real) soul, Aretha Franklin, no less.

But Franklin also has a repertoire of truly great songs and, while Blige performed with fierce conviction, there was nothing in this set that could muster either the melodic clarity or emotional punch of such classics as *Respect* or *Think* or *Chain of Fools*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

About the blues

Ali Farka Touré
Festival Hall

The West African guitarist Ali Farka Touré hails from Timbuktu and is best known for the Grammy-award winning album he made with Ry Cooder, an atmospheric concoction of traditional rhythms, deep blues and glittering guitar work. A legendary figure in his native Mali, he is being urged to use his fame and prestige to take up a career as a reforming politician in what remains a deeply traditional society. "Ali was born to lead," Cooder told me, and on stage he is a commanding, charismatic figure.

He gave a compelling performance of the African blues, a fascinating lesson in the cross-fertilisation of two cultures, sharing an ancient commonality but ripped asunder by history. The blues of the American delta was born out of the tribal music carried in the slave ships, and Ali combines African roots with an acute awareness of its development in the cotton plantations. Accompanied only by Oumou Touré on percussion and Hamadou Boucon on backing vocals, he used the simplest elements to build a hypnotic and mesmerising sound. He began on electric guitar, favouring a fuzzy tone

on a series of high and brittle solos, picking out the simple and insistent bass lines at the same time. The slow blues of *Al Du* perfectly illustrated the music's journey as Ali fused John Lee Hooker's metronomic style with passionate African vocals.

He switched to an acoustic guitar for the nimble patterns of *Gomni* and *Amandrai*, taken from the *Talking Timbuktu* album he made with Cooder, rhythmically sparse yet polished until they sparkled. He sings in a variety of West African languages, including Songhai and Bambara, and spoke to the audience at length in a Creole French which was almost as impenetrable. Yet the vocabulary of his music is universal. Towards the end he switched to the njarka, a one-stringed traditional bowed instrument often described as a West African precursor of the violin, an achingly timeless sound which again spoke of the tribal influences on American blues.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON



Good, but no Aretha Franklin, Mary J. Blige worked her socks off at Wembley Arena

A subdued artists' procession

OPERA

Opera Gala
Albert Hall

IMPROVISATION was in the air on the opening night of the Royal Opera's short stay at the Albert Hall. *Nights of the Stars* was rebilled as *A Gala Evening of Opera*, which was just as well because not all the artists originally announced were present.

The young Italian tenor, Fabio Armiliato, due to make his company debut, was a last-minute cancellation. Fortunately José Cura, already well established on the international circuit, was on hand and prepared to add to the number of arias he was already scheduled to sing. Appropriately, he took over Andrea Chénier's improviso from Armiliato and in Giordano's opera provided the most stirring singing of the evening. Cura, bold in his vocal attack and ready to flood the music with emotion, is a natural in this part.

He was also the star, carrying the personality and the volume to take on the wastes of the Albert Hall. He got proceedings off to fine start with *Chloé e mar* from *Giocanda* and closed them in equally ringing style with *Tu qui, Santuzza* from *Cavaleria*. In the latter he was joined by Agnes Baltsa, who proved much more adept as Mascagni's heroine than she had been earlier in the *Veil Song* from *Don Carlos*.

Her fellow Greek, Irene Carli, a young soprano, was bold enough to tackle the close of Donizetti's *Anna Bolina*. There is plenty of promise there, but the voice is hardly of Albert Hall dimensions yet, especially in so taxing a piece.

The other performers were mainly drawn from the *Otello* casts Covent Garden is fielding this week and they prowled around the pillars of Timothy O'Brien's set with varying success. Zvetlana Vasilieva revealed fine-spun tone in her two arias (Puccini and Cilea), Alexandru Agache rougher edges in his pair (Giordano and Verdi). Giuseppe Giacomini had a distinctly unhappy time as Leoncavallo's Canio.

The evening lacked structure. The procession of artists each doing their piece before exiting was the musical equivalent of a fashion parade. Sometimes the clothes fitted and sometimes they did not. Jacques Delacôte and the ROH Orchestra had a very subdued time, suggesting their minds were on *Otello*. Luckily Cura was at hand to raise the temperature at intervals.

JOHN HIGGINS

Finnish fire

LSO/Davis
Barbican

Everyone knew that, after Sir Colin Davis's revelatory Sibelius with the London Symphony Orchestra five years ago during the Barbican's Tender is the North festival, the cycle would be back before long. It has returned in time to celebrate Finland's 80th year of independence, and as part of the Barbican's Valo festival of Finnish music and the arts which opened on Sunday.

Sir Colin's is indeed huge, celebratory Sibelius forged, it seems, in the very fire of Finland's great mythic blacksmith, Ilmarinen. The First Symphony seems even broader in its tempos, deeper in its resonances than it did in 1992; and the LSO more instinctive and even more enthusiastic in its response to Davis's sentient grading of textures, and his formidable control of pacing.

In the face of such full-hearted performances, anything less than total generosity of spirit in response might seem out of place. And yet, since that first cycle, those who care deeply about Sibelius will have observed Osmo Vänskä's way with the symphonies, both on disc and with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and will have meditated on Paavo Berglund's

continuing clear-sighted wisdom. Vänskä, in particular, has shown that the composer's metronome markings in the first movement of the First Symphony are both viable and exciting. After Andrew Marriner's matchless opening clarinet solo on Sunday night, the great tremulous upbeat into the *Allegro energico* simply did not thrill as it can in a tauter performance.

Speed alone, of course, is not all. What distinguishes Davis's Sibelius is the thinking behind the tempo. And he brings to this symphony the full weight of Tchaikovsky's recollection: Sibelius, after all, was deeply moved by a Helsinki performance of the *Pathétique* just a year before he wrote his own First Symphony. But this is not Tchaikovsky. In the very making of his music — in its inexorable organic growth, its tonal ambivalence, in the tough outworking of its static and dynamic principles — Sibelius seems to brace himself against life. And when a conductor braces himself against the music, we perhaps come closest to the heart of Sibelius.

This was nevertheless quite some evening, after quite some day. Since 10am the LSO had held a Sibelius Discovery Day. When that ended, the Valo festival was opened with a fanfare for brass, wind and percussion by the Finnish composer Kimmo Hakola. And finally, Sibelius's Second Symphony surged forward, with the successive climaxes of its finale made all the more powerful by the biting string articulation which fired them.

HILARY FINCH

Blissful union

BBCPO/Elder
Manchester

Few conductors would want to make a specialty of Strauss's *Symphonia Domestica*. Even fewer could reasonably hope to make a success of it. Against all the odds Mark Elder has conducted that massive score with two of our leading orchestras in less than three years. And he has twice made a success of it.

The performance with the BBC Philharmonic in Bridgewater Hall was even better than the one with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. It was not a matter of the respective qualities of the two orchestras: both of them can make a virtuoso job of a scoring like this. The difference on this occasion was that the structure was so much more convincing, with no falling-away at the end.

As much as half a concert contained in one continuous

movement (though conceived in three clearly defined sections), the *Symphonia Domestica* requires long-term thinking and a sustained effort in concentration. At the same time it is packed with the most extravagantly picturesque detail which is so brilliantly done that there is a constant danger of being tempted away from structural virtue. While retaining both the baby and the bath water, Mark Elder concentrated on characterisation — where he was assisted by a particularly eloquent solo violin, an expressive oboe d'amore and an heroic trumpet — on the fundamental emotional inspiration and on the prolonged celebration of domestic happiness at the end.

As on the Birmingham occasion, Elder introduced the *Symphonia Domestica* with a romantic overture and a Beethoven Concerto. Out of its context, the prelude to the last act of Humperdinck's *Königskinder* made little sense. The performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto in G made very much more sense, in spite of the shallow-sounding piano on which it was played. Alfredo Perl's interpretation is, as yet, incomplete but it is an uncommon achievement.

GERALD LARNER



CHICAGO

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Airy-fairy
art of the
Victoria

LAWN
OPENS FRIDAY

Airy-fairy art of the Victorians

Richard Cork finds drug-fuelled fantasies and shameless exuberance on show at the Royal Academy

High on the Victorian equivalent of a designer drug, the artist lapses into a hallucinatory dream. Around his head, lolling on a plush crimson cushion, a gaggle of Bosch-like hobgoblins prance and leer. One grotesque elf offers him a potion foaming with vapours. But the painter has no need of further cock-tails. He is lost in a world of feverish fantasies, and the garlanded fairy at their centre looks at him with an indulgent, enticing smile.

John Anster Fitzgerald, who portrayed himself in this small yet turbulent picture, made fairy painting his forte. But he was far from alone in depicting the supernatural. By 1857, when *The Artist's Dream* was executed, the occult had become a Victorian craze. Reacting against industrialisation, Darwinism and other modern horrors, a surprising number of laudanum-drowsy painters found solace in fairyland. The Royal Academy has brought together their immoderate offerings in a Sackler Wing exhibition. Ridiculed for much of the present century, they now threaten to become a *fin-de-siècle* fad for anyone recoiling from the grimmer realities of our own age.

6 Lovers set in a wood teeming with nimble, sex-hungry sprites

But we should be careful to discriminate between the magical and the meretricious. Shakespeare, who was instrumental in creating an appetite for midsummer madness, spawned an alarming diversity of images. At their best, they can boast an achievement as sublime as Turner's *Queen Mab's Cave*. Dissolving in a haze of sunset light, the cave itself is even harder to discern than the classical ruins balanced so precariously on the rocky heights above. But the overall aura is mysterious enough, and Turner has the wisdom to stop short of giving his fairies over-specific form.

Most of them remain mercifully indistinct, unlike the figures in other paintings on the same wall. On one side, William B. Esser's *Puck* pays dim-witted homage to a Reynolds picture of the same subject. He turns Shakespeare's imp into an irritating child who, with his coy grin and elongated ears, waves at us in a rush of self-satisfaction. On the other side, Theodore van Holst becomes still more sinister. His *Fairy Lovers* trip through a moonlit glade. Their embrace is cloying. Only the female's winged headpiece introduces a more acerbic note, threatening to dislodge the absurd, overblown flower teetering on the man's head.

Some of the most celebrated 19th-century artists were not suited to fairy matters. When Landseer turned his attention away from *The Stag at Bay*

and *The Monarch of the Glen*, he tried hard to paint *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with conviction. After all, he had been invited to contribute a Shakespearean decoration to the dining room of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's London house. But Landseer's Titania looks far too like a plump Victorian model, and he handles Bottom's ass-head with painfully dogged naturalism.

Brunel would have been better advised to plump for Sir Joseph Noel Paton's response to the same play. His *The Reconciliation of Oberon and Titania* is a precocious showpiece. Painted when he was only 26, it sets the reunited lovers in a wood teeming with nimble, sex-hungry sprites. Whether suspended in space with lyre and pipes, entwined in athletic dalliance or tumbling in an ecstatic loop of winged energy above Bottom's slumped body, they prove just how liberated Paton felt during his excursion into irrationality.

In 1847 he entered the painting for a fresco competition in Westminster Hall, and won a £300 prize. When Paton exhibited in his native Scotland a pendant painting, of Oberon and Titania's quarrel, Lewis Carroll was so enraptured that he took the trouble to count 165 fairies among its frolicking hordes.

Paton's exuberant images must have helped John Anster Fitzgerald to break away from the stiffness of his early genre scenes. But Fitzgerald went further, jettisoning Paton's dependence on Shakespeare in favour of his own unfettered fancies. His most shameless extravaganzas enclose seductive fairies in an upended bird's nest. Its writhing, tortuous forms are echoed by the painting's frame, which sprouts a delicious tangle of three-dimensional twigs. They twist around the picture in an orgy of wriggles, and imply that intimate contact with the figures inside the canvas might be perilous.

The warning is apt. For Fitzgerald has concocted a macabre assortment of freaks for his bosky setting. Some hover like predatory bats over the foliage, while others plot, struggle, smirk and bare their spikes, projecting from their scaly skin. The debt to Bosch is proclaimed quite openly in the foreground, where a horned

monster clutches a broken egg as it hatches another naked fiend. But Fitzgerald's overheated imagination looks forward as well, anticipating the even more bizarre forest scenes painted by Max Ernst.

Even so, Fitzgerald seems inconsequential compared with "mad" Richard Dadd. He is by far the most outstanding artist in the show. And the fact that his masterpieces were painted in the criminal lunatic department of a hospital makes them even more astonishing. Dadd was incarcerated there in 1844, having killed his father in a notorious and premeditated incident. So he was never again able to pursue a promising professional career. The inmates were, however, encouraged to occupy themselves with reading, chess and handicrafts, and Dadd would certainly have been helped to resume painting as soon as he wanted to take it up once more. Dr



Arthur Rackham's snappily titled *The Serpentine* is a lovely lake and there is a Drowning Forest at the bottom of it

ing continued in Britain for another half-century. Arthur Rackham and others ensured that it invaded children's book illustration, enchanting nursery readers with heady images of delight in the delis. It could not, however, survive the advent of the First World War. The last picture on view here, Estella Canziani's *The Piper of Dreams*, was begun in the spring of 1914. By the time she exhibited it at the Royal Academy the following year, the boy playing his instrument in the fog-bound wood must have taken on a quite different meaning. He looks, with hindsight, like the bereft child of a father who has enlisted for battle, and the stripped trees behind him eerily resemble the landscape of the killing fields over in France. Reproductions of Canziani's picture became a favourite among the frontline troops, selling more than 250,000 copies in the first year alone. But the fairyland dream could not be sustained for long in the nightmare of machine-age obliteration, cutting down the young men who had so recently been weaned on a gossamer vision of paradise.

Victorian Fairy Painting at the Royal Academy (0171-300 8000) until Feb 8

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

MUSSORGSKY'S BORIS GODUNOV
Reviewed by David Nice

MUSSORGSKY'S masterpiece has had an even more chequered career than the play on which it is based. Alexander Pushkin's Shakespearean chronicle was written in 1825 but only reached the stage in 1870, long after the poet's death. The opera's premiere took place four years later, by which time Mussorgsky had expanded and partly recomposed his seven-scene original. His well-meaning colleague Rimsky-Korsakov twice overhauled the work for more conventional operatic tastes.

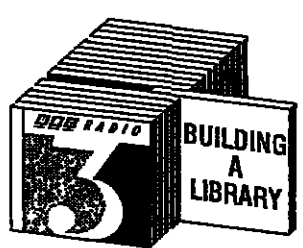
The spectrum of currently available recordings is divided fairly equally between what one scholar has described as the "supersaturated Boris", David Lloyd-Jones's edition welding together as much music as possible from the composer's 1869 and 1874 scores, and Rimsky-Korsakov's sanitised version. Herbert von Karajan on Decca wades through Rimsky's thickened textures as if through treacle, but provides a jewelled setting for the sumptuous utterances of Nicolai Ghiaurov's tsar.

Ghiaurov is part of a tradition that puts Boris in the melodramatic limelight — a tradition promoted by the charismatic Chaliapin and taken up by Boris Christoff. Singing not just Boris in two EMI recordings but also the roguish Varlaam and the chronicler-monk Pimen, Christoff can be quietly eloquent as Pimen but follows Chaliapin in raging, not singing, his way through Boris's guilty hallucinations. He is better sampled in tandem with conductor André Cluytens's flexible guiding hand in the 1963 version (EMI CDS 7 47993-8, 3 CDs, £43.99) than in Christoff's first recording which follows too many of Rimsky's first edition cuts.

And so to the best of the real thing. Mstislav Rostropovich on Erato has several committed singing actors, above all Ruggero Raimondi as the tsar, but his Washington forces are insufficiently gritty. Ideally rugged choral singing and playing are certainly to be found on Claudio Abbado's Berlin-based recording (Sony Classical S3K 58977, 3 CDs, £46.49). This is the most vivid of guides to history in music as Mussorgsky saw it, moment by inspired moment.

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OTHER EXHIBITIONS

RECENTLY commissioned by BAA, the airports authority, for the Flight Connections Centre at Heathrow, Julian Opie's *Imagine You're Moving* is now open. Two long light-boxes project a simple layering of apparently continuous computer-generated landscape, from dark green foreground through light green-blue hills to clouds, above an army of green bucket chairs. Up an escalator on the next floor, the same image, but without clouds, is shown on four viewing monitors. The images are redolent of those printed on the Formula 1 modern railway carriages. As well as finding out how delayed or late your plane may be, it is possible to catch a computer-game "ride" swooping around emblematic oak trees. Opie's piece, a seamless logo, is disconcerting in that it appears always to have been there. Heathrow Flight Connections Centre (0181-745 4491)

THE FRENCH painter Bernard Frize projects an apparently free-flowing movement of paint across a specially treated canvas to produce an image that is light, slippery and luxurious. The waxed surface allows him to create a sense of uncontrolled speed; the effect is somewhat like drifting sand, a fluid massing of movement and light. Downstairs, a singular arabesque of strangely merged colour loops backwards and forwards across the canvas of a large painting, illustrating the unquestioning, matter-of-fact confidence which Frize brings to his work. Frith Street Gallery, 59-60 Frith Street, W1V 9TA (0171-494 1550) until Dec 20

IN THIS exhibition of work by Yuko Shiraiishi, *Juxtapositions*, the four large, abstract paintings in the back gallery are part of an ongoing series and perhaps more familiar examples of the artist's work. The effect of each — three blue stripes dragged across red underpainting — is both visually engaging yet somehow dry and awkward. In the front gallery, small paintings sunk into the wall provide a seamless expanse of wall and canvas, while across the gallery, their equivalent in colour and composition protrudes from the wall in three-dimensional boxes. This combination suggests a back-to-front, inside-out view of the possible space within a painting. Annely Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering Street, W1R 9AA (0171-629 7578) until Dec 19

AT CAMDEN Arts Centre, Rose Finn Kelcey is exhibiting three separate installations. The long, white gallery features an enormous caricature of a pearly gate, standing ajar, and a number of blown-up rubber corn sacks. Yet the scene is far removed from rural idyll and its elements seem like hugely blown-up parts of a children's board game. The floor across the hall is deep in straw, with bales piled so high as to produce a suffocating feeling in the viewer, without producing any sense of involvement in an "adventure". The third piece, displayed at an angle, is a closely tufted pink carpet holding a blown-up image of a Vatican Air Mail stamp. Rose Finn-Kelcey, Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 6DG (0171-435 2643) until Dec 21

SACHA CRADDOCK

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LAW

● THE LEGAL MINORITY 43
● WHO'S THE VICTIM? 43

Will the Lord Chancellor's legal aid plans create fresh inequalities? Frances Gibb reports

Mind the new gap

This week MPs will have a chance to grill the Government over its proposed reforms to the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme. In a debate on Friday, Geoff Hoon, the Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, will explain why from April the Government plans to scrap civil legal aid money claims and replace them with "no win, no fee" (conditional fee) arrangements, whereby solicitors act for

nothing but can claim higher than usual fees if they win. The shake-up is aimed at restoring access to justice for "middle income Britain" — what Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, describes as the "vast majority" of the population, who cannot afford to go to law and do not qualify for legal aid.

Predictably, some will say the legal profession is already voicing strong concerns. Less predictably, so are consumer and advice bodies. There is

general support (although the Bar is not in favour) for widening "no win, no fee" work. But there is a consensus that this should not be done at the same time as withdrawing civil legal aid; it is too soon, critics say, to be sure that "no win" will plug the gap.

At the heart of the fears of consumer and legal groups is that the insurance market is not ready to step in when the State pulls out. Phillip Sycamore, President of the Law Society, says the changes rest

on the assumptions that insurance cover (to protect litigants against paying a winner's costs) will be available and affordable. But last week at a briefing session he told MPs: "That simply is not the case. Outside personal-injury mainstream work, the insurance industry doubts the market will develop to provide that cover, and has said so." Where premiums do exist, he says, they will be beyond the reach of most people.

A second concern is that in

complex litigation — such as medical negligence work — solicitors cannot afford the huge investigative costs needed before they can assess if a claim is a runner.

The effect, says Ashley Holmes of the Consumers' Association, will be that the present injustice — the exclusion of "middle income Britain" from the law — will be removed at the cost of "freezing the poorest and most vulnerable" out of the legal system: one inequality swapped for another.

Insurance industry reaction is mixed. Litigation Protection, Abbey Legal Protection, and Greyhound Legal Services (LawAssist) already provide cover — some in the medical negligence field. But Brian Raincock, of Litigation Protection, admits that there will have to be "imaginative schemes" developed to ensure that people can afford the premiums; and, he says, these are on the way. One option would be for the Legal Aid Board to pay the premiums; another, argued by the Government, would be for solicitors to bear the costs, which they insist they could ill afford to do. If it is to be the former, only "surefire" claims (those with more than a 75 per cent chance of winning) will ever get off the ground.

At present, this is just talk. The Government remains accused — according to Roger Smith, of the Legal Action Group — of using "a very blunt instrument" when it should use a scalpel, and all for saving £80 million from the legal aid budget.

Yet there are signs of movement. Lord Irvine is sure that "no win" fees will fill the gap and give "millions" access to justice. He does accept, though, the need for a hardship fund, and one for "public interest" cases. "But they would have to be strong cases. Any hardship fund would not become a dump for too weak cases, cases that the market is not willing to back with a conditional fee agreement."

Why the PCC will still have a role

The Government's Human Rights Bill will incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. One issue discussed during the second reading debate in the House of Lords on November 3 was the impact of the Bill on privacy. Will the courts grant injunctions to prevent newspapers from publishing true information the subject wants to keep secret?

Article 8 of the Convention guarantees the right to private life. It recognises that on occasions we all, like Greta Garbo, want to be alone. We are entitled to have our personal thoughts and private actions protected from the telephoto lens and the microphone. But Article 8 is not absolute. It allows for intrusions into private life when this is necessary in a democratic society.

When the intrusion is by the press, Article 10 of the Convention is also relevant. It guarantees freedom of expression. Although, again, this is not an absolute right, but one that is subject to those exceptions necessary in a democratic society, the European Court has repeatedly emphasised the importance of free speech. It is "incumbent on the press to impart information and ideas on matters of public interest" in performance of "its vital role of public watchdog".

What, then, will the English courts say if, the day after the enactment of the Human Rights Bill, a television soap opera star, a relative of the Queen or a backbench MP seeks an injunction to stop a Sunday newspaper from publishing the secrets of their private life?

The Bill requires a "public authority" to comply with the Convention. A newspaper is not a "public authority", but the term is defined to include the courts, so judges must protect the rights of litigants under the Convention. However, the Convention does not require domestic law to establish a right to privacy. In *Winer v United Kingdom* in 1986, the European Commission of Human Rights concluded that because of the competing right to freedom of expression, it did "not consider that the absence of an actionable right to privacy under English law shows a lack of respect for the applicant's private life".

Our courts will also conclude that, in any event, it is consistent with the Convention for the law to allow the balance between free speech and personal privacy to be determined by public authorities such as the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, explained during the second reading debate that the Government is not introducing a privacy statute because it believes that "strong and effective self-regulation is the best way forward in

the interests of both the press and the public".

The PCC Code of Practice maintains a fair balance by protecting privacy save where there are competing public interest considerations. Applying the principles to specific cases is often a difficult question of subjective judgment. The PCC's latest digest of its decisions reports, for example, on the complaint brought against *The Mail on Sunday* by Rowan Atkinson's brother, who objected to an article which speculated that he was the model for the comic character Mr Bean. Does the brother have a right to continue living his life in anonymity, or are the origins of a popular fictional character a matter of public interest? The PCC rejected the complaint.

The courts should, and I think will, recognise that other than in the most extreme circumstances, it is consistent with the Convention to leave these difficult questions of judgment to the relevant specialist body. It is true that the PCC cannot grant complainants an injunction to stop publication. But then the courts themselves will not grant injunctions to stop libels that the publisher intends to justify. Indeed, the European Court has emphasised that prior restraints on publication require "the most careful scrutiny" because "news is a perishable commodity, and to delay its publication, even for a short period, may well deprive it of all its value and interest".

In dismissing in 1996 an application for judicial review against the PCC brought by the Moors murderer Ian Brady, who was aggrieved by a picture of him published in *The Sun*, the Court of Appeal emphasised that it would recognise a very broad discretion for the PCC. Such an approach is entirely consistent with the Convention. When dismissing claims against the United Kingdom in planning cases, the European Court has stated that questions of judgment may properly be left to qualified independent experts, so long as judicial review exists to correct perversity, or errors of law.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1803: "It is so difficult to draw a clear line of separation between the abuse and the wholesome use of the press, that as yet we have found it better to trust the public judgment, rather than the magistrate." Save in extreme cases, the Human Rights Bill will neither qualify nor require our judges to grant injunctions which decide where freedom of expression ends and privacy begins.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. This is an edited version of a lecture to the Young Legal Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

Fiona Bawdon on two people who might have lost with conditional fees



Two who were awarded damages: Paul Kobryn, above, and June Hancock. Legal aid helped them to win expensive cases

What about Paul?

THE first reaction of Ian Street, a solicitor, to Lord Irvine's announcements was to ask: "What about people like Paul?" Paul Kobryn was 17 when he was knocked off his bicycle, catastrophically injured, and left paraplegic.

With the help of legal aid and his solicitor, Mr Street, a partner at the Southampton-based Warner Goodman & Street, he won damages for his injuries.

Mr Kobryn, now 29, believes that the money has transformed his life. "Without it," he says, "I'd still be in an institution." Instead he lives in his own "specially adapted" home, which includes accommodation for his carer, and he plans to buy a place so he can have more privacy. His 24-hour care means that he can go to social events and has even been able to afford several short holidays.

Cases such as his are notoriously expensive to bring. They usually involve a lot of experts, which means that the disbursements cost a lot. Mr Kobryn could never have met these costs himself if "no win, no fee" had been the only option. "It's just Mum and me," he adds. "I was only a student."

Mr Street insists that the case would not have been brought without legal aid. His firm — though, with 12 partners, large for a regional firm — could not have funded it, nor could the disbursement bill have been reduced in any way.

Mr Kobryn is appalled at the prospect of legal aid being withdrawn. He also believes that it is probably a false economy. Apart from the freedom the award gives him, being financially self-sufficient means that he costs the State nothing.

Too risky today

JUNE HANCOCK'S case has been called "the most important environmental" case of recent years. But, says the solicitor she hired, without legal aid, it would never have been brought. Ms Hancock, who died earlier this year, won £65,000 damages after developing myositis — an asbestos-related cancer.

Her solicitor, Adrian Budgen of the Sheffield-based Irwin Mitchell, says the case extended the manufacturer's duty of care to neighbours of factories, rather than just employees.

The firm could never have brought this case on conditional fees. It would have been too risky; and the costs were disproportionate to the amount awarded. Even with a success fee of 100 per cent, the firm would not have been adequately compensated.

Mr Budgen says: "We have a team of nine people and spend close to 4,000 hours on it. And when you think of the experts involved and counsel..."

Nor would the after-the-event insurance limit of £100,000 have covered costs. The case was also made more expensive by the tactics of the defendants, Turner and Newall. In his judgment, Mr Justice Holland accused the company of using "any means possible, legitimate or otherwise, so as to wear [the plaintiff] down by attrition".

It is not just the 25 cases subsequently settled that were helped by Ms Hancock's victory. A research fund is being set up in her name, to offer help and support to other sufferers of myositis (2,500 people die from the condition every year). "And," Mr Budgen says, "it didn't cost the taxpayer a penny."

War crimes prosecutors wanted

THE Government is to canvass the Bar for QCs willing to help to speed up the war crimes trials at The Hague by taking on prosecutions.

The offer was made last week by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, when Judge Louise Arbouret, the chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the

former Yugoslavia, was visiting London. Mr Cook said that Britain had a skilled pool of trial lawyers who might be briefed to act on a one-off basis to help to speed up prosecutions pending with the tribunal. Twelve trials are awaiting hearing, but a total of 77 alleged war criminals have been charged.

Mr Cook is keen to help to ensure that those responsible

for war crimes in the Balkans are brought to justice. Britain has become the first country to offer sanctuary to individuals who testify before the tribunal and could be in danger if they return to their homes.

● Lewis Silkin, the West End law firm, is hosting an update seminar on the Internet and e-mail on November 25. It will cover the rules of copyright and other intellectual property rights, business on the Net (contracts, advertising etc), e-mail and libel and forum shopping. Details: Sue Ryan, 0171-221 8154.

Wigs and lunch
BISHOP John Taylor, former Bishop of St Albans, will preach the fourth sermon in the *Wigs and Mitres* series at a service in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Sunday. Lawyers and anyone else who attends will hear his views on "What does the Lord require of you?" The service comes with lunch for an all-in price of £23. Details: 0171 405 1393.

Corporate killing
AS A RESULT of an editing error, Stephanie Trotter's article last week was made to suggest that under the new government offence of corporate killing, company directors would be severely dealt with and, if convicted, fined personally or jailed. Mrs Trotter has asked us to make clear that the point she in fact made is that there is widespread misunderstanding of the Law Commission proposals on which the government offence is based and company directors will not personally face punishment.

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A TOTAL of £6,000 is on offer in this year's Times Law Awards, held this week in Essex Court, the chambers of Anthony Grahame QC.

There is still time for students to submit articles of no more than 1,000 words on: *Privacy and the press: is law the answer?* First prize is £3,000, second £2,000 and third, £1,000. Three runners-up will each receive £250. The Human Rights Bill — which will pave the way for

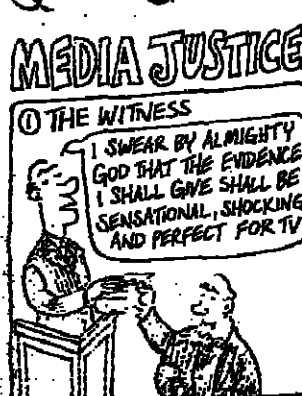
courts to create a privacy law — has now been published. Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, has made clear that courts are under a "clear duty" to take up this role. But the first few rulings will be crucial in determining where judges are likely to draw the line.

● Full details and rules via 071-833 2000 or see Law, October 14, or The Times Website at: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



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Senior Commercial: Brussels Pharmaceuticals co requires solicitor min 8 yrs' PQE to head European division handling commercial, transactional & EU matters. Expect of dealing with Commission helpful.

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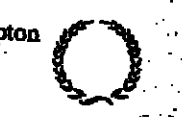
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Promoting change: Lincoln Crawford, chairman of the Bar race relations committee, and Margaret McCabe, organiser of the Women Lawyers' Conference

Frances Gibb reports on the barriers to ethnic minority progress in the profession

The cement ceiling

We are comfortable now with Asian barristers," a chambers clerk said recently. "But as for Afro-Caribbean ones — we're just not ready for them. The clients wouldn't like it."

The tale is told by Lincoln Crawford, the chairman of the Bar's race relations committee, and it shows, he says, that ethnic minority lawyers still face not so much a glass ceiling as a cement roof. The obstacles are, he comments, there at every stage of a legal career — from law school and examinations, to entry point into law firm or chambers and, finally, when it comes to promotion to the bench.

But the problems are coming out into the open. For the first time, the legal profession and the Government are joining on November 29 for an unprecedented public debate of the issues. The 1997 Minority Lawyers' Conference, *New Generation: New Challenges, the first of its kind*, takes place under the aegis of the Law Society, Bar Council and Lord Chancellor's Department, with the Lord Chancellor —

Lord Irvine of Lairg — giving the keynote address.

That it will happen at all is a tribute to the barrister Margaret McCabe, who also organised the highly successful Women Lawyers' Conference. To bring together the profession with the various organisations into a mainstream event has not, she admits, been easy. But the enthusiasm was there. The aim, she says, is not to have a big whinge about problems but to "produce ideas and strategies so that minority lawyers can succeed and rise through the ranks of the legal profession".

Mr Crawford agrees. "You can't talk about a multicultural society when there are whole swaths of areas in the legal profession where black people cannot participate at all," he says. He points out that while minority lawyers are found in the Government legal service, Crown Prosecution Service and local government, they are not found to the same extent in private practice — and scarcely at all in the judiciary. There are no black High Court judges; and only four

out of 552 (0.7 per cent) recorded among the circuit judges.

The focus will be on action: how to develop a modern practice, play a part in the decision-making of the legal profession, forge contacts, break into new areas of work and progress up the ladder. A continuing problem is the size of the pool from which candidates are drawn. Law Society figures show that in July 1996, ethnic minority solicitors with a practising certificate comprise 4.1 per cent of the 68,000 practising solicitors; and nearly all have less than ten years' experience. The proportion is, however, growing.

They make up almost 20 per cent of trainees and nearly 25 per cent of entrants to law degree courses. At the Bar, latest figures show 13 per cent of pupils and squatters (barristers with no chambers placed) and 8 per cent of barristers in independent practice are of minority origin.

But there is evidence that the pool is smaller than it should be — witness the comment of the clerk above. Mrs McCabe argues: "There are some preferred sets of

chambers, for instance, that get the CPS briefs, so we need to change the criteria for being a preferred set. If you don't get the work, you don't have the experience that puts you in the frame to apply for promotion."

More, they believe, could be done by the Lord Chancellor's Department to trawl for candidates; and to look more imaginatively at who might qualify. They do not want positive discrimination but positive action. "There needs," Mr Crawford says, "to be some action centrally, some direct intervention, as Tony Blair did with women MPs — to make a difference." They are nevertheless adamant that ability is the touchstone. Mrs McCabe says: "We do not want anyone to be given a job because of the colour of their skin. What we are saying is: these people can do the job; just give them the chance."

● The 1997 Minority Lawyers' Conference is sponsored by The Times and National Westminster Bank. Details: Marcia Williams, 0171-320 5800, or Pamela Bhalla, 0171-342 0082.

'Criteria for preference have to change'

'Some central action is needed'

The convicted rapist feels unlucky — rarely guilty

Should Parliament prevent a victim's sexual history being raised in court?

Extensive coverage of the lengthy cross-examination of two rape victims by their attacker has drawn attention to the ordeal that victims routinely face in court. But the response of the Government, some academics and the media invokes victims' rights at the expense of defendants' rights. Preventing defendants from representing themselves sets a dangerous precedent, and at the same time sidesteps the refusal of the criminal justice system to arrest, investigate and convict violent men. That is, it undermines civil rights, yet changes nothing for women.

The reality is that though more women than ever now report rape, convictions have fallen from 25 per cent of reported cases in 1985 to less than 10 per cent in 1994. A third are not even recorded by the police as crimes; and four fifths of those recorded are dropped before trial.

Women making an initial complaint are still likely to face sexist indifference, racism or other hostility; inaccuracy in recording a statement; ineffective gathering of evidence; inadequate and even brutal forensic medical examinations; notorious reluctance to prosecute by the CPS; and in the minority of cases that reach court, a trial that many describe as a "second rape". No wonder only one in 200 rapes results in conviction. Convicted rapists feel unlucky, not guilty.

The problem is not that defendants have too many rights but that victims have too few. Defendants who defend themselves and who badger and intimidate the witness are a tiny minority. Politicians and the media have rarely protested about defence barristers trawling through a woman's irrelevant sexual, medical and other history.

The 1991 criminalisation of rape in marriage finally established that the issue in every rape trial where identity is not in doubt is consent, not whether a woman slept with the accused or any other man on any other occasion. This basic principle, hard won by years of women's campaigning, seems always under threat. Judges have the discretion to protect witnesses from tortuous questioning; yet they too often allow questions irrelevant to consent. A woman's sexual history is no more relevant to a rape case than previous

convictions of the accused. In addition, rape victims are not represented in court; they never meet the prosecution lawyers before the trial, and often find "their" lawyers careless, ill-prepared and prejudiced.

Proposals to hold trials without the victim being present, such as the Home Secretary's proposal of video links or written statements, are also dangerous. Unlike children who need shielding from the incomprehensible trauma of giving evidence in person, most adults want their "day in court". The two women who, with our help and that of two other women's groups, successfully brought the first private prosecution for rape in England, wanted to tell their story, and to get public recognition and official condemnation of the wrong they had suffered. They did not want to be put on trial for a crime of which they were the victim.

The fact that, increasingly, reported rapes do not fit the stereotype of dark alley-stranger-knife reflects rising expectations that women need not accept unwanted sex. That the rapist was a date, a trusted friend or a partner does not make rape easier to bear or harder to prove. The sensational media coverage of "date rape", with its so-called false allegations, has been the occasion for some lawyers, academics and politicians to call for legal distinctions between rape by strangers and other forms of the assault. But accusing women of not knowing their own minds, sending "wrong signals", or having a natural propensity to lie, conveniently hides men's refusal to take no for an answer and the criminal justice system's refusal to prosecute effectively for it.

The obstacles women encounter also confront those in the police, the CPS and the courts who share our concerns. What is needed is a change of priorities at every stage of the criminal justice process. Parliament disallowing a victim's sexual history from being raised in court would be an important step in establishing yet again that in rape cases, consent is the issue.

LISA LONGSTAFF
AND ANNE NEALE
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You will have between 2 and 5 years' general corporate/commercial experience gained either in private practice or industry. The work will be extremely broad, ranging through general corporate matters to offshore negotiations and major transaction and international new ventures involvement. A sense of humour is crucial as is a confident, strongminded and flexible approach.

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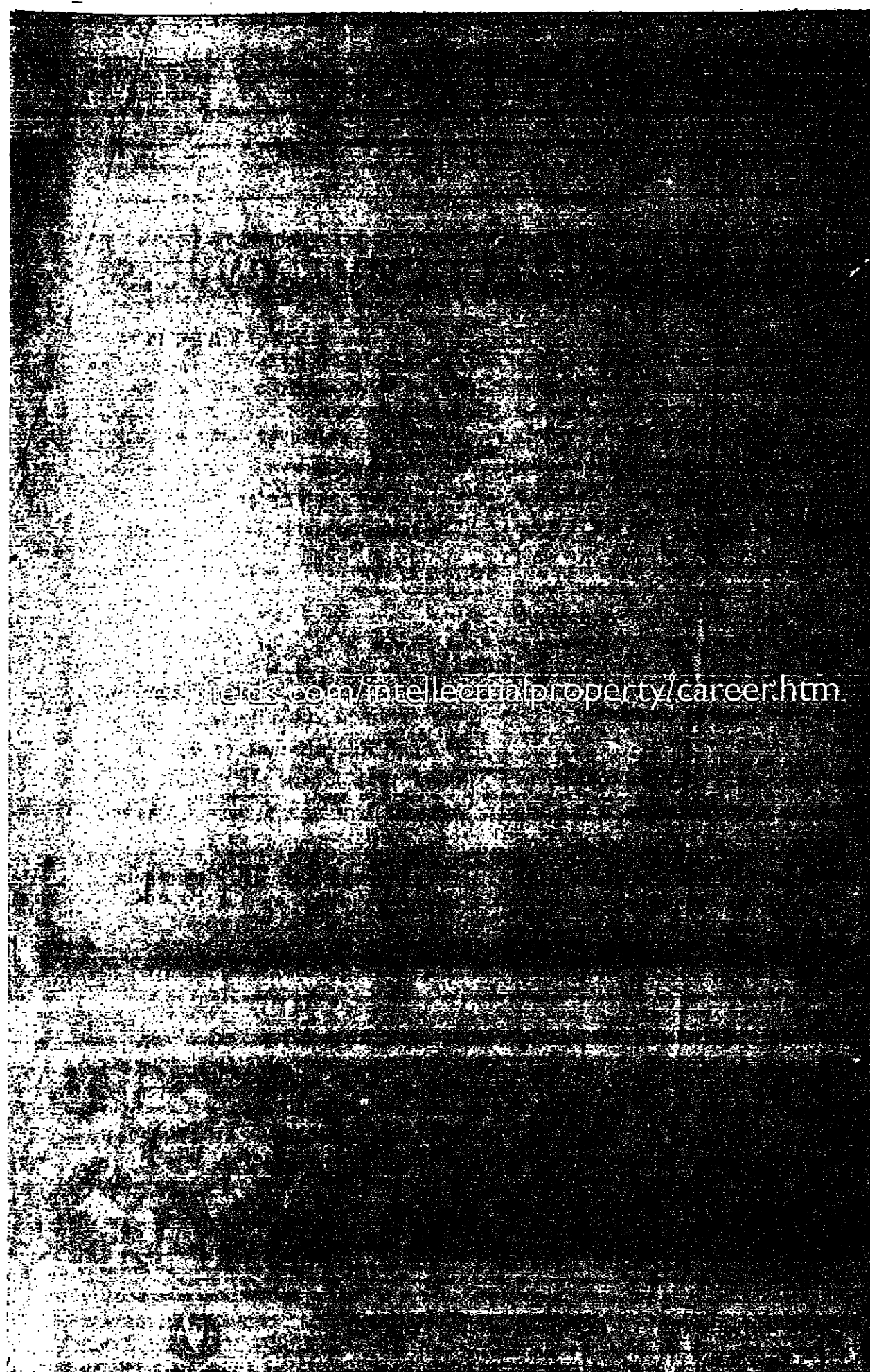
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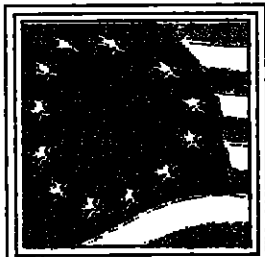
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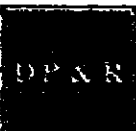
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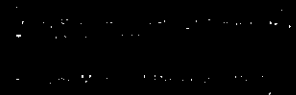
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You will need to demonstrate sound business judgement and skills and have the ability to handle a diverse range of legal work, including the management of litigation and a broad array of corporate and commercial matters. The strength of personality to manage internal processes and external lawyers in a high-pressure environment will be a prerequisite. Applicants must be able to travel extensively.

A competitive salary and remuneration package is on offer to the successful individual and will reflect the importance Hilton attach to this position.

For further information please contact our advising consultants Lindsey Newman or Kathryn Kernick at In-House Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Tel: 0171 405 0151. Fax: 0171 831 6498. hwggroup@hwgroup.co.uk http://www.hwggroup.co.uk

This assignment is being handled exclusively by In-House Legal and all third party or direct applications will be forwarded to them.

IN-HOUSE LEGAL

BIRMINGHAM • LILDS • LONDON • MANCHESTER

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

PRIVATE PRACTICE

MAINSTREAM BANKING £225-375,000
One of the most successful US corporate and banking law practices is seeking to recruit an established English banking partner to help develop the UK side of its business. Existing first rank US and foreign banking practice and very successful track record will be relevant to the firm's high powered UK banking partner's role. The firm's key appointments where City credibility and gravitas are of greater importance than precise level of following. Will almost certainly be from top twenty London firm. (Ref:12942)

BANKING £150,000-200,000
Banking skills remain in exceptional demand. Our Client's top five City practices with a solid reputation for mainstream wealth, securitisation, capital markets (both equity and debt) and structured finance requires additional assistance with up to 4 years' experience. The firm places a strong emphasis on recruiting assistance with a "life beyond work" and will consider every individual on his or her merits. (Ref:13158)

ASSET STRUCTURED FINANCE £100,000-150,000
One of the most prestigious medium sized City firms, with an outstanding corporate client base, seeks 4 year plus finance lawyer, preferably from a top 10 firm. The role covers high quality leveraged buy-outs, securitisation, etc. A tremendous opening to join this firm with a superb reputation for staff retention and high morale. (Ref:20636)

FINANCIAL SERVICES £36-57,000
Financial services team working closely with the corporate lawyers within this successful London office, seeks an additional specialist at the 2-5 year level. Will provide support on corporate transactions and work on our latest finance work, advising on investment management, IPO, IPO and other regulatory issues. Opportunity to build a dedicated practice in the area, ultimately with potential for heading a small unit within a highly successful and profitable practice. (Ref:13554)

BANKING TO £40,000
City firm with well regarded banking team seeks 2-4 year banking lawyer to join friendly, close-knit team fully integrated into the larger commercial department. Banking and very high profile work for domestic and overseas banks means you will need excellent rigour and commercial acumen. Apply if you want to combine quality work with a friendly and lively environment. (Ref:20791)

For further information on these, and the many other private practice vacancies registered with us, please contact Yvonne Smyth or Andy Caulfield (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 3838 (01623-469564 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact Yasmin Phillips on 0171-523 3822 (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail yvonne@zmb.co.uk. For further information on vacancies in the North of England please contact Lindsay Sandford or Jennie Mills (both qualified lawyers) on 0161 238 4908 (01433-650404 evenings/weekends) or write to ZMB North, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3LF. Confidential fax 0161-238 4910. E-mail lindsay@zmb.co.uk.

INDUSTRY

LEGAL DIRECTOR
US multi-national with strong UK and European presence seeks a Legal Director to join senior management and head up the UK legal team. You will be co-ordinating outsourced legal work, assisting with the development of new financial products and overseeing and negotiating a range of commercial contracts. You will need at least 6 years' financial/corporate experience and the drive required to lead this dynamic environment. (Ref:20485)

LEGAL BANK £150,000-200,000
Pre-eminent City banking house with prestigious corporate clients seeks a 4 year plus PMA lawyer to support the dynamic and city driven commercial arm of the business. An outstanding opening to join an established market leader, you will require excellent technical skills, well developed commercial acumen and the ability to communicate complex issues clearly to senior management and clients. (Ref:21184)

CO/CO £50,000-60,000+BENS
International commodities and trading company seeks 3 years' plus company/commercial lawyer, preferably with some experience of, or interest in, international trade commodities. Will play a commercial role advising senior management on policy, regulatory compliance and disputes world-wide, particularly focused on emerging markets. (Ref:16766)

CAP MARKETS £TOP MARKET
London office of leading European bank seeks 1-3 year lawyer to join the capital/emerging markets team. Very exciting role, along with bankers structuring deals and advising on strategy with a minimum of documentation and more reactive nature. With travel opportunities and a young, friendly team, this is an excellent chance to specialise in this booming sector. (Ref:21121)

CORPORATE FINANCE - PROVINCES TO £50,000+BENS
Fast growing financial services company seeks articulate lawyer with 3-5 years' corporate experience and, ideally, some knowledge of financial services. Wide range of work, with increasing international focus, including M&A, joint ventures, distribution agreements, new products and regulatory issues. Reporting to the Board, this is an exciting opportunity to enjoy high quality work, whilst improving your quality of life. (Ref:20977)

NORTH

SNR PROPERTY LEEDS
Property department in prestigious Leeds office of leading national firm seeks a senior assistant solicitor/partner (minimum 5 years' ppe) with a strong and diverse commercial property background. Excellent opportunity at the highly profitable firm with a merit based culture which rewards all round contribution not just hours billed. London equivalent level of remuneration offered. (Ref:20591)

COMMUNICATION LEEDS
Blue-chip litigation department of major Leeds firm has outstanding opportunity for commercial litigator; 4-7 years qualified, seeking partnership within the next 12 to 18 months. You should have experience of a range of complex and notable commercial disputes and clear evidence of partnership potential. Successful candidate is likely to come from a London or major regional practice. (Ref:21167)

COMPANY COMMERCIAL NEWCASTLE
Highly regarded corporate department of very profitable city centre practice seeks a 2-8 year qualified company/commercial lawyer with excellent technical, team and marketing skills. Quality work ranges from M&A, JVs and general corporate finance to commercial contracts for a range of UK and international clients. A truly meritocratic firm which rewards its high achievers in terms of both promotion and package. (Ref:17428)

CORP KNOWHOW LEEDS/MCR
A leading force in corporate law in the North, this firm seeks a superb professional support lawyer to co-ordinate precedent, build a lower law database, keep colleagues abreast of legal developments and assist with client and internal newsletters. Demanding role if you still relish the challenges of the law, but would like to move on from the daily grind of case handling. (Ref:21207)

FINANCE LITIGATION BIRMINGHAM
Birmingham office of this leading national firm provides a complete commercial litigation and recovery service for high street banks, building societies and other quality financial institutions. A 1-4 year litigation lawyer is required to handle a fast moving caseload including high profile professional negligence, fraud, property related finance disputes and regulatory matters. Come and join a friendly and successful team that enjoys hard work. (Ref:21030)

Into Industry

Pharmaceuticals - Middlesex
Pharmaceutical giant seeks 1-2 years' ppe co/co lawyer for stimulating role with continental reach. Licensing experience necessary. Ref: 38562 Andrew Regan

Co/Co - Russia & Spain
Company/commercial linguists sought by prestigious oil company for various exciting positions with a global slant; 4 years' ppe and upwards. Ref: 38568 Andrew Regan

IT/Commercial - East Anglia
Pro-active junior lawyer for commercial role with market-leading IT company. Should ideally possess telecoms experience and a creative streak. Ref: 38613 Andrew Regan

FSA Regulatory - London
International consultancy requires a dynamic lawyer to establish regulatory framework within legal team. FSA compliance experience is preferable. Ref: 38655 Andrew Regan

Co/Co Lawyer - Middle East
Energy multinational requires co/co lawyer with 2-5 years' ppe to work abroad in an exciting role that is, quite literally, full of Eastern promise. Ref: 38567 Andrew Regan

Commercial Lawyer - Surrey
Superb opportunity exists with renowned engineering company. Applicants should have c 1-2 years' ppe in IP/technology. Ref: 35838 Andrew Regan

Reuter Smith
5 Broadwalk
Chancery Lane
London EC4A 1DY
Tel: 0171 405 4181
Fax: 0171 242 1281
E-Mail: rs@psd.co.uk
Internet: www.psd.co.uk

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

QD IN-HOUSE LEGAL

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY To £60,000 plus bens
Our client, a multi-national property company, seeks an experienced commercial property solicitor with at least 8 years' ppe for this senior role. Based in the London area and working closely with senior management, you will advise on the acquisition and leasing of property as well as company formations. Ref: TC44518

OIL/GAS To £Excellent
Outstanding opportunity for exceptional 4-6 year ppe company/commercial solicitor to join the large in-house team of this major multi-national. Dynamic and with strong academics, you will preferably have a top ten City firm background. Ref: TC21700

FINANCIAL SERVICES To £Six figure package
One in a million opportunity to join the financial arm of a truly global telecommunications company. Our client seeks a Chief Counsel to develop and manage its European operations from London. You will have 10-15 years' ppe, a broad ranging finance background including leasing and strong inter-personal and managerial skills. Ref: TC40658

CAPITAL MARKETS/DERIVATIVES To £Top City
If you have 2-4 years' City experience in capital markets or general banking/corporate finance then this is for you. Based in London, our client is one of the leading European financial institutions and offers you the chance to get involved in hands-on investment banking transactions at the cutting edge. Ref: TC29809

TAX To £Partnership
Big Six accountancy practice seeks corporate tax lawyers at all levels who wish to broaden their experience as tax consultants. You will have a top City firm background and be looking to advance your career prospects through an inspired move. Ref: TC40668

GENERAL COMMERCIAL To £35,000
Sole in-house counsel role for this high profile corporate well known in the retail/service sector. You will be a 0-3 year qualified general commercial lawyer ready to tackle a varied workload in an exciting environment based in Buckinghamshire. Ref: TC39484

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Stephen Leary, Rebecca Errington or Jane Mesri (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-537 9375 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

QD
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LONDON • BIRMINGHAM • LEEDS • MANCHESTER • HONG KONG • PARIS • NEW YORK • STONEY • MELBOURNE • AMSTERDAM • TORONTO • VANCOUVER

HIGH TECH IP LITIGATOR

Australasian Experience

Our Client is one of the leading intellectual property firms in the City. Committed to providing advice at the cutting edge of the technology world, our Client now seeks to recruit a 4-5 year qualified IP litigator to assist on highly complex intellectual property litigation matters.

The successful candidate will have had exposure to or experience of Australasian intellectual property law for at least four years gained either in the United Kingdom or another common law jurisdiction. The candidate must have good technical knowledge of computer law. Of particular use would be a knowledge of the legal and technical implications of graphical user interfaces. Also of importance is a good academic background and an ability to work alone or as part of a team.

QD
QUARRY DOUGALL

If you require any further details please contact our retained consultants Nick Peacock or Stephen Rodney on 0171-405 6062 (0171-228 0476 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

TO ADVERTISE CALL
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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:
0171 782 7899



FRESHFIELDS

We are looking for intellectual property and information technology lawyers to work in our London office. If you use the internet, you'll find a lot of information about our practice at www.freshfields.com/intellectualproperty/career.htm. But in case you don't, here's a summary.

In London we have three IP and IT partners. Partners in our offices in other countries also do IP and IT work. We have a professional IP support lawyer and an information officer, whose sole task is to maintain and improve our information resources. We believe in giving our lawyers the tools for the jobs in other ways too - every partner and assistant has a portable pentium PC and a modem so that they can get the most out of our office systems, wherever the job takes them.

There are currently eleven assistants in the department in London. The department's work covers litigation, transactions and advice in a wide range of sectors, including licensing, merchandising, franchising, manufacturing, retailing, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, IT, telecoms, broadcasting, publishing, entertainment, art and sport.

We also have a growing reputation in the field of IT - as the Legal 500 1997 edition says, we have "an excellent practice in outsourcing work" - and we're looking for good lawyers with a real interest in computers and the law, and particularly in developments in new media. Above all, though, we're interested in people who transcend their disciplines and show genuine creativity and flexibility.

If you're a qualified lawyer who might enjoy working in our growing IP and IT practice - with an excellent City salary and benefits - we'd like to meet you. We want experienced lawyers, but a genuine interest in IP and IT is more important than a specialist background, as we also have opportunities for people with solid experience in transactional, advisory and litigation work.

Write to Jonathon Hill at Freshfields, 65 Fleet Street, London, EC4Y 1HS, or email him at jhill@freshfields.com.

General Counsel

Legal Expertise, Commercial Flair

Quality, service and value are at the heart of our business philosophy. If you think you can share in our vision, contact our exclusively retained consultants.

STUART ROBINSON
(stuartrobinson@eastlinknight.co.uk)
or LINDSAY REID
(lindsayreid@eastlinknight.co.uk)

for an informal discussion and an information pack.
Telephone 0171 353 7007;
confidential fax 0171 353 7008.

Raynell Legal Recruitment,
55 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AA.

North London

Are you ready to take on a challenge which stretches your commercial abilities - and your horizons? This is a far-reaching opportunity for a dedicated professional.

McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, the company responsible for the McDonald's name in the UK, require a General Counsel for the UK to be based at their headquarters in North London.

Reporting to senior management, you'll be advising them on a challenging mix of legal work with a strong commercial flavour which will include:

- franchising law and the relationship between franchisor and franchisee;
- property matters (we already have a dedicated team of conveyancing lawyers);
- the company's marketing and promotional activities relating to trademarks and IP;
- corporate and commercial law;
- managing litigation up to instructing outside counsel;
- monitoring the company's legal spend.

You will be working alongside people at all levels advising them on legal matters. You'll obviously have to be a team player with commitment, dedication and a desire to contribute to McDonald's continuing success.

The successful candidate will need to have a flexible approach to the changing needs of a dynamic organisation.

You will be a solicitor, preferably qualified in the UK, with at least five years' experience of working in-house handling a range of contractually-based commercial matters. Long term career prospects are excellent.

If your knowledge of McDonald's stops with the menu, you might be surprised to learn that we serve over 1.8 million customers every day in the UK alone and have an annual turnover of over £1 billion. Currently we have over 800 restaurants, a quarter of which are operated by franchisees. You might also be surprised to learn that McDonald's has invested over £1 billion in the UK alone since 1974.

In return for your skill and commitment, the salary will be excellent with a package to reflect the status of this executive position.

A worldwide story of personal success

Talent Spotting

SOUTH

Private Client to £45K - South West provincial firm seeks solicitor with strong technical skills and preferably full planning as well as personal tax experience.

IT City Bright, ambitious IT consultants with confidential or case-contingent exp required by progressive, expanding firm committed to development and training.

Corp Building to £45K - City's Top firm with first network sector solicitor with strong technical skills, NO-2PCE, with background in construction experience. Languages and/or science background useful.

Project Planning to £25K - City's Top firm with first network sector solicitor with corporate, banking or construction experience. Languages and/or science background useful.

Insurance/Recovery to £45K - City's Top firm with first network sector solicitor with strong technical skills, NO-2PCE, with background in construction experience. Languages and/or science background useful.

Time/Finance to £45K - City's Top firm with first network sector solicitor with strong technical skills, NO-2PCE, with background in construction experience. Languages and/or science background useful.

Construction to £45K - City's Top firm with first network sector solicitor with strong technical skills, NO-2PCE, with background in construction experience. Languages and/or science background useful.

Building to £45K - City's Top firm with first network sector solicitor with strong technical skills, NO-2PCE, with background in construction experience. Languages and/or science background useful.

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MIDLANDS

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CIVIL LITIGATION - SALISBURY
Leading practice seeks 2-3 yrs + PFI to assist partner on most recovery etc. Call Macdonald & Co. (01747) 828257, Fax 01747 828047.

COMMERCIAL - SOUTHAMPTON
Law firm seeks 2-3 yrs + PFI to assist partner on most recovery etc. Call Macdonald & Co. (01747) 828257, Fax 01747 828047.

COMMERCIAL - DEVON
New company seeks 2-3 yrs + PFI to assist partner on most recovery etc. Call Macdonald & Co. (01747) 828257, Fax 01747 828047.

COMMERCIAL - CROYDON
Company seeks 2-3 yrs + PFI to assist partner on most recovery etc. Call Macdonald & Co. (01747) 828257, Fax 01747 828047.

PROBATE, TAX AND TRUSTS
Wanted in French, wanted for international practice with leading law firm in Paris, France. Please send CV to stuartrobinson@eastlinknight.co.uk. Tel: 0171 353 7007, Fax: 0171 353 7008.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BUSINESS LAWYER
33, licensed in Paris, New York and California, competitive and successful, extensive experience in Europe, USA and Southeast Asia, well developed skills in negotiation and communication skills, challenging environment in leading international law firm. Please send CV to stuartrobinson@eastlinknight.co.uk. Tel: 0171 353 7007, Fax: 0171 353 7008.

PERSONAL INJURY
Experienced Sol/Leg. Extensive required for expanding P.I. practice to undertake Defendant P.I. litigation. Excellent terms. CV's to stuartrobinson@eastlinknight.co.uk, 36 King Street, Covent Garden, WC2E 8JS.

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TENNIS

Hingis faces powerful challenge in rich finale

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

DESPITE the \$2 million prize-money and bonus ranking points on offer, the 16 women who contest the Chase Championships here this week will have one eye on the holiday period that follows.

Played in Madison Square Garden, the tournament is as American as the Big Mac. Only the roll of honour breaks the spell. Most of the champions of recent years have been European, with Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, who did not become an American until 1994, sharing the lion's share of the spoils.

This time, however, the

DRAW

M. Hingis (Swe) v B. Schuster-McCarthy (F); S. Appelmans (Bel) v M. Pierce (F); A. Coetzer (SA) v N. Pietrangeli (F); A. Huber (Ger) v M. C. (C); S. Farman (F) v S. Tardieu (F); M. J. Fernandez (US) v L. Davenport (US); M. Seles (US) v L. Sánchez Vicario (Sp); C. Martínez (Sp) v J. Novotna (Cz).

home crowd may have something to cheer about. Although Martina Hingis has stolen the limelight this year, she has been showing signs of tiring at the end of a gruelling season. True enough, she is the youngest world No 1 in the history of the sport, has lost only four times all year, and has won three of the four grand-slam titles; she has simply been untouchable at the top of the heap.

However, a mass of ranking points in the bank has not given Hingis the same air of invincibility that Graf had in the same position. She is still only 17 and, over the last few tournaments, she has visibly wobbled. Add to that her habit of falling off horses, as she attempts to qualify for her showjumper's licence, and the

run into New York has not been the best period of Hingis's golden year. At the same time, the jostling for position in the rest of the rankings has become fierce. Jana Novotna, who had been sitting tight in the No 2 slot, was overtaken at the weekend by Lindsay Davenport, the first time the tall American has reached such heady heights in the world rankings.

Much was expected of Davenport when she took over from Martina Navratilova as the United States No 1 in 1994. As Navratilova waved her final farewell at Madison Square Garden in the first round of the year, Davenport went on to reach the final. But thereafter her progress was hindered by injury, illness and an attendant lack of self-belief.

Winning the Olympic gold medal on home turf in 1996 marked the beginning of her comeback and this year she has won six titles and comes to New York having reached three consecutive finals in Zurich, Chicago and Philadelphia. Included in her list of recent achievements is a win over Hingis in the semi-finals of the Los Angeles event.

Fitter than before, Davenport's size and renewed confidence have begun to pack a considerable punch. On Sunday night, she took Hingis to a third-set tie-break in the final of the Advanta Championship in Villanova, Philadelphia, before going down 7-5, 6-7, 7-6.

After the match, Hingis said: "They are catching up to me pretty much, and soon. Everybody says: 'You have no rivals.' But at this tournament, everybody else showed I'm not the only one who can play." Amanda Coetzer is another



A determined Davenport pushed Hingis all the way before succumbing in three sets

Rusedski ranks with best for Sampras

of those elbowing her way through the ranks. The diminutive South African may look tiny and demure, but she is not one to take defeat lightly. What she lacks in inches—she stands a mere 5ft 2in in her tennis socks—she makes up for in stamina. Like Davenport, she has beaten Hingis this year—in the semi-finals in Leipzig—and, again like Davenport, she has climbed to her highest ranking.

One thing is certain. Come Sunday night, there will be a new champion in the record books. No one in the 16-strong field has won this title before and only Hingis, Davenport, Anke Huber and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario have reached the final. In the absence of Graf, who is still nursing her injured knee, the field is wide open.

GREG RUSEDKI, No 6 in the Association of Tennis Professionals' end-of-year rankings, could be the most realistic challenger for the leading position in 1998, according to the man whose hold on the No 1 spot is as secure as ever. Asked who poses the greatest threat to his supremacy, Pete Sampras, who heads the rankings for a record-equaling fifth year, said: "It's hard for me to say one player, but you can look at someone like Rusedski, on an indoor fast court or grass."

The Briton started the year at No 48 on the list, but Sampras said: "Rusedski, out of

them all, has the biggest game with his serve. When he gets his first serve in, he's pretty much unplayable. His game forces you to be ready. You have to stay on your toes. You feel like if you miss a couple of shots here and there and he serves big enough, that could be the first set."

"His game reminds me of [Goran] Ivanisevic a little bit with the up and downness that he plays. But with a serve like that, he's going to be around for a lot of years." Tim Henman is at No 17 in the list, which was issued yesterday.

Rankings, page 52

ICE HOCKEY

Cardiff's nerves calmed by Matulik

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

CARDIFF Devils and Sheffield Steelers served up a thrilling game before a capacity crowd at the Cardiff Ice House on Sunday with the home side, 3-0 ahead after ten minutes, eventually winning 4-3.

Determined to atone for two successive defeats, the Devils took advantage of some uncharacteristic hesitancy by Piero Greco, the Sheffield netminder, with goals by Ken Hodge, Frank Evans and Vezio Sacratini. The second period was scoreless, but the Steelers got the breaks in the third. Ken Priestley scoring on the power play, Ed Courtney taking advantage of an errant clearance and David Longstaff scoring from close range to bring them level.

Within two minutes, Ivan Matulik put Cardiff ahead again and, although play was in the Cardiff end of the rink for the remaining eight minutes, the Devils held on. They were helped by Sheffield's tendency to indulge in rough-house tactics when they might have been better served by concentrating on trying to draw level.

The change in coach at Newcastle Cobras has had an immediate effect. Dale Lambert has taken over from Rick Brebant, who was dismissed, and the team, who broke their duck against Nottingham Panthers with a 5-4 success in midweek, gained their second successive win, beating Bracknell Bees by the same score. Brett Stewart scored three of their goals and Randy Smith netted the winner in the seventh minute of overtime.

Brebant, meanwhile, has moved to Manchester and set up the first goal of the game on the way to the Storm's 8-3 defeat of Basingstoke Bison. The return to full fitness of Dale Jago was an important factor in Manchester's success; he assisted on three of the goals.

SAILING

Silk Cut storms into fifth after avoiding disaster

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

LAWRIE SMITH almost broke the 24-hour monohull record and came close to losing several of his sails overboard as he made the best of strong following winds in the Southern Ocean and improved *Silk Cut* to fifth place in the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

In the 24 hours to midday yesterday, *Silk Cut* achieved a run of 431.5 miles, averaging 17.7 knots for the last six hours of the period, in freezing conditions and tailwinds of 30-32 knots. This is just three miles short of the record set by *Toshiba* during her transatlantic Whitbread qualifying race last July.

With the weather at last in his favour right on the southern edge of the Roaring Forties at 49 degrees south, Smith moved from seventh to sixth on Sunday, and then ahead of *Cheshire* Racing into fifth place. In terms of distance to the end of the leg in Fremantle, the fourth-placed boat, *EF Language*, skipped by Paul Cayard, is now well within his grasp, just 22 miles ahead.

Steve Hayles the navigator on board *Silk Cut*, said that there had been two fairly big "wipe-outs" when the boat broached under masthead spinnaker, before they changed down to a fractional spinnaker.

The change itself went smoothly, although hauling in 280 square metres of heavy spinnaker cloth with freezing hands in 35 knots of wind is never the simplest of tasks. Hayles said: "We were just settling down and getting the boat fully powered up when we went down a very steep wave."

What happened next almost brought Smith's race to an end. The sails stacked on the weather-side deck, to help flatten out the boat, and tied onto the stanchions posts were swept overboard as a wall of water engulfed the boat from bow to stern, sweeping off all

the guardrails and stanchions from one side.

"As the front of the boat disappeared into the wave at well over 25 knots, the water swept aft and dragged the sails hard enough to break off every stanchion, leaving the sails hanging over the side," Hayles said. "This was a major situation, as losing the whole lot meant losing the whole race."

Without dropping the spinnaker and working on a precarious deck with no guardrails, the crew managed to haul the sails, weighing more than half a ton, back on board before taking them down below, where they were repacked. "Apart from that little drama, we have had a good day," Hayles said.

While Smith and the boats closest to him, *EF Language* and *Toshiba*, skipped by

DETAILS

POSITIONS (at 1200 GMT yesterday, with miles to Fremantle): 1. *Silk Cut* (Mon) 2. *EF Language* (Mon) 3. *Toshiba* (US) 4. *Cheshire* (Mon) 5. *Cheshire* (Mon) 6. *Cheshire* (Mon) 7. *Cheshire* (Mon) 8. *Cheshire* (Mon) 9. *Cheshire* (Mon) 10. *Cheshire* (Mon) 11. *Cheshire* (Mon) 12. *Cheshire* (Mon) 13. *Cheshire* (Mon) 14. *Cheshire* (Mon) 15. *Cheshire* (Mon) 16. *Cheshire* (Mon) 17. *Cheshire* (Mon) 18. *Cheshire* (Mon) 19. *Cheshire* (Mon) 20. *Cheshire* (Mon) 21. *Cheshire* (Mon) 22. *Cheshire* (Mon) 23. *Cheshire* (Mon) 24. *Cheshire* (Mon) 25. *Cheshire* (Mon) 26. *Cheshire* (Mon) 27. *Cheshire* (Mon) 28. *Cheshire* (Mon) 29. *Cheshire* (Mon) 30. *Cheshire* (Mon) 31. *Cheshire* (Mon) 32. *Cheshire* (Mon) 33. *Cheshire* (Mon) 34. *Cheshire* (Mon) 35. *Cheshire* (Mon) 36. *Cheshire* (Mon) 37. *Cheshire* (Mon) 38. *Cheshire* (Mon) 39. *Cheshire* (Mon) 40. *Cheshire* (Mon) 41. *Cheshire* (Mon) 42. *Cheshire* (Mon) 43. *Cheshire* (Mon) 44. *Cheshire* (Mon) 45. *Cheshire* (Mon) 46. 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Out of control on the highway of hyperbole

If you're not an expert about what happens under a bonnet (the Austin-Healey type, rather than Jane Austen), then when you watch a programme like *The Car's The Star* (BBC2), which is peppered with jargon about V8s and differentials, you always come away not knowing the answer to the one technical question that is uppermost in your mind: namely, is Quentin Wilson demoted?

Quentin—who plays Sundance Kid to Jeremy Clarkson's Butch Cassidy on *Top Gear*—gets very, very excited about cars. Last night he got excited about the Corvette.

But there always seems something unauthentic about Wilson's fizzy enthusiasm. Partly this is because Wilson's excitement resembles that of the playground nerd who has just latched on to whichever craze all the cooler boys at school are currently hooked on. And partly it's because of the way Wilson conveys his excitement: he

uses lots of words, but *not* necessarily in the right order. "They say," he told us, "that if America could be expressed in terms of metal, plastic and chrome, it would look a lot like a Chevrolet Corvette"—"they," presumably, being the inmates of Willson's local lunatic asylum. Already beginning to overheat dangerously, he added: "For Americans this car is more sacrosanct than JFK or the Declaration of Independence." Not as sacrosanct, mind you; but *more*.

As for the delivery, it makes you wonder if Willson is the secret love-child born of a one-night stand between Alan Whicker and Jeremy Clarkson's mother. The stresses are in those words, located only (expertly) by Whicker (and, preposterously) by those train swappers who announce over the Tannoy that "the buffet car is now open for the sale of Of light refreshments."

If anyone still harbored any

doubts that Willson had bought a home-study course, six cassettes plus accompanying book containing step-by-step guide to Whicker diction, they only had to hear him say: "Make no mistake about it. Main Street America loves the Chevrolet Corvette. And that IS because it IS a star-spangled, patriotic statement that America, was, is, and will be, larger than life. [allow for Whicker-style pause here]. And very. Very. Noisy."

As it happens, Willson also aims for a Whicker-style script. And misses. In the first programme of the series he called the E-type "a racing car in a miniskirt"; you don't need to be Freud to know that, if anything, it was a racing car in a posing pouch. The show he offered: "The Corvette 1969, should you run American, should you please!" had forgotten the itch of desire.

Like a car with the accelerator

to the right that it slaps the end of the dial: "If you want to understand about America and Americans, then here you go. Six generations of her favourite icon. And it's all here: America's power, her paranoia, her confidence, optimism, wealth and isolationism. The Chevrolet Corvette tells us more about the American way than a whole freight train of history professors." Hello?

I only hope Willson was sensible enough to call a taxi rather than drive himself home after swallowing whatever it was that produced that fantastic hallucination.

But Channel 4's *Movers and Shakers: Car Wars* showed us that not all men are so pathetic that they will spend their adult lives revving sports cars and driving to work. Some men are so pathetic that they will spend their adult lives revving sports cars up and down their bedrooms. Splinteric irony: "The same that's

always spelt wrong") is motor-racing for men who ache to drive around in an E-type picking up "chicks," but who settle for driving a three-inch long Ferrari that even a Barbie doll would snigger at.

It was easy to mock, which may be why the makers of this documentary did, especially when Richard Hardie in South Wales told them that his 1,000 Scalfetricks had provided "a very important stability in my life. When things go up and down, you can lose yourself, you can be Graham Hill. My wife thinks I'm a complete idiot." She's not the only one.

Sould Wilson have been waving the Lord of the Tigers (and the Indian author Valmik Thacker, the documentary's conservationist showing how *you can* go over the top with your script and still not be shot down—provided viewers detect some sense of nation there).

As the cameras sifted the Indian sub-continent for a few jewels of wildlife — some larger monkeys here, elephants swimming there, a snow leopard in the Himalayas — Thapar told us that he has been tracking India's tigers for many years, "yet I still thrill to the splendour of these magnificent beasts". It takes a while for your car to get used to the sound of a traveller on television who can still "thrill to the splendour" of anything without feeling self-conscious or lending the phrase an ironic, smart-alee undertone.

The photography is bewitching. It's possible that once in the remaining five weeks of this series, Thapar will look us in the eye and say coolly, "It's all here: India's power, her paranoia, her confidence, her history, her myth, and her isolationism. The tiger tells us more about the Indian way than a whole freight train of history professors." But I doubt it.

REVIEW

Joe Joseph



BBC1

8.00am Business Breakfast (20505)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (25963)
9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (5513586)
9.25 Style Challenge (5525321)
9.50 Kilroy (1) (621073)
10.30 Change That (833875)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (7810925)
11.35 Real Roads (6564906)
12.00 News (1) and weather (6208057)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (3812875)
12.35 Give Us A Clue (2229654)
1.00 News (1) and weather (28050)
1.30 Regional News (84340186)
1.40 The Weather Show (59891031)
1.45 Neighbours (1) (44353499)
2.05 Quinzly (1) (2913944)
2.55 Wogan's Best of Blankety Blank (7930437)
3.30 Playdays (6171789) 3.50 Arthur (8175505) 4.15 Fudge (5501089) 4.35 It'll Never Work (1797789) 4.50 Newsround (1) (5421012) 5.10 Byker Grove (1) (5372012)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (830499)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (383)
6.30 Regional News (963)
7.00 Holiday The Costa de la Luz, Israel, Fort Lauderdale, the Cotswolds and the Isle of Wight (1) (5296)
7.30 EastEnders The two women in Ian's life threaten to tear him apart (1) (147)
8.00 Mysteries with Carol Vordermann
 Featuring a man who dreamt about the winners of the Grand National and won a fortune (1) (4944)
8.30 A Question of Sport Chaise's Frank Leboucq, athlete Kelly Holmes, boxer Steve Collins and golfers Darren Clarke, polo captains John Parrott and Ally McCoist (1) (3079)
9.00 News (1) and weather (5031)
9.30 Rory McGrath's Commercial Breakdown A look at commercials using cuddly animals. Last in series (1) (81321) 9.35 The 9.30 News (52944) 10.00 (13121) 10.00 Rory McGrath's Commercial Breakdown (52944) 10.30 One Foot in the Grave (61692) 11.00 Auntie: The Inside Story of the BBC (817556) 12.05am FLM: 2.05 BBC News (34354) 2.00 News (5261677) 2.05 BBC News 24 (3922822)
10.00 One Foot in the Grave The Melnrowns return from an overseas holiday to find their home has been burnt to the ground (1) (1) (52944)
10.30 Auntie - The Inside Story of the BBC insight into the BBC's so-called golden years, 1970 to 1988, which saw conflict with the Conservative Government and the introduction of some of the BBC's classic programmes, including Yes Minister, Family Ties, EastEnders and Radio 4's Today. Last in series (1) (3118470)
11.35 Once Around (1991) Romantic comedy about an Italian-American woman (Holly Hunter) who falls for puffy salesman Richard Dreyfuss during a Caribbean party. Directed by Oliver Stone. Halle Berry (449321) Followed by Weather
4.00pm BBC News 24 (65903)

■

6.00am Arts: Victorians and the Art of the Past (11586) **6.30 Richard II** (96963)

7.00 See Hear: Breakfast News (T and signing) (3686073)

7.15 Teletubbies (r) (4984296) **7.40 Smurfs' Adventures** (r) (3268437) **8.05 Blue Peter** (r) (T) (284234) **8.30 Oakie Doke** (r) (4547789) **8.40 Rupert** (r) (9631470) **8.45 The Record** (9534215) **9.10 Practising Belief** (5094073) **9.25 See You, See Me** (2111470) **9.45 Numbertime** (421944)

10.00 Teletubbies (r) (87215) **10.30 Watch** (2058493) **10.45 Science Zone** (3253212) **11.05 Space Ark** (8260234) **11.15 Megamaths** (T) (1555147) **11.25 History File** (8364988) **12.00 See Hear** (r) (T) (56857)

12.30pm Working Lunch (86499) **1.00 Fiddley Foodie Bird** (r) (56862334) **1.10 The Art and Antiques Hour** (8371128) **2.10 Going, Going, Gone** (62441079) **2.40 News** (T) (3263125) **2.45 Westminster** (T) (7040857) **3.25 News** (T) (8988234) **3.30 The Village** (r) (741)

4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (876) **4.30 Through the Keyhole** (r) (1799760) **4.55 Esther** (9536215) **5.30 Today's the Day** (352)

6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (r) (583876)

6.25 Heartbreak High (T) (834012)


7.10 The O Zone (217470)

7.30 From the Edge In-depth reports on issues affecting disabled people (T) (789)

8.00 University Challenge Oxford Brookes take on Warwick University (T) (2588)

8.30 Food and Drink Antony Worrall-Thompson prepares spiced chicken breasts with lentils; reduced-alcohol drinks; and traditional Cumbrian dishes (T) (4321)

9.00 Timeswatch: The Gentlemen **9.15 Timeswatch: The Involved** In the early years of M15 recall how their professional lives were shrouded in secrecy (T) (332936)



Sir New Pike rejoins the ranks (3.50pm)

9.50 Back to the Floor Lieutenant-General Sir New Pike samples life in an armoured personnel carrier (T) (518906)

10.20 Best Friends Two women tell the story of their enduring friendship (T) (604383)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (178741)

11.15 Seinfeld George and former classmate Diane hit it off, but only after Jerry tells her he's a leading marine biologist (T) (212789)

11.40 The Larry Sanders Show A clash of opinion threatens to bring the show to its knees (T) (433505)


12.00 The Midnight Hour (1045838)

12.25am Weather (7018819)


12.30 Learning Zone: The Making of Peter Snow (5675432) **12.35 Architecture in Britain** (563635) **2.00 Modern Languages** (57428) **4.00 Deutsch Plus 1-4** (49109) **5.00 Witness and Training** (31242)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4085878)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (1) (5501741)
9.55 Regional News (1) (6028470)
10.00 The Time, the Place (74741)
10.30 This Morning (1) (48304215)
12.20pm Regional News (1) (6299741)
12.30 News (1) and weather (2255079)
12.55 Shortland Place (2223470) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (5768893) 1.50 The Rockford Files (5672296) 2.50 Vanessa: My Partner's A Flirt (1) (8664031)
3.20 News (1) (8938789)
3.25 Regional News (1) (8975760)
3.30 The Riddlers (3807708) 3.40 Wizardra (1189760) 3.50 The Adventures of Paddington Bear (1185941) 4.00 Zzzap! Autumn Special (8945654) 4.15 Hey Arnold! (1) (3610906) 4.40 The Ward (1) (9843789)
5.10 WALES: Don't Try This at Home Kids! (9834963)
5.10 Relative Knowledge (9834963)
5.40 News (1) and weather (378055)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (840302)
6.25 Regional Weather (726383)
6.30 Regional News (1) (401)
7.00 Emmerdale: The Woolpackers return from Australia (1) (3692)
7.30 WALES: Your Century: Aberystwyth (215)
7.30 Take 3 Current affairs series (215)
8.00 The Bill Boyden and Blake are assigned to investigate the horrific death of an alcoholic (1) (8012)
8.30 The Cook Report Exposing more dodgy businessmen and practices (1) (8147)
9.00 Soldier, Soldier Hobbs is determined to go out with a bang during an inspection of the barracks (1) (7741)
10.00 News (1) and weather (47012)
10.30 Regional News (1) (576499)



Mount St Helens erupts (10.40pm)

10.40  Savage Earth: Hell's Crust First in a new series examining the restless planet we live on, beginning with the eruption of Mount St Helens in Washington State (1) (643470)
11.40 WALES: The Wacky Weekly World News (904418)
11.40 Wham! Bam! Poetry Slam! (904418)
12.10am The Making of a Life Less Ordinary (5088068)
12.35 Planet Mirth (7624426)
1.05 Late and Loud (5867093)
2.05 The Chart Show (1) (6541726)
3.00 Football Extra (1) (4110987)
3.50 World of Selling: Acoustic Skiff Grand Prix, Round 3 (1) (56572242)
4.20 Sound Bites (40588548)
4.35 The Time, the Place (1) (93619616)
5.00 Helloom (1) (98779)
5.30 News (61618)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2223470)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9834963)
6.25-7.00 Central News (122789)
7.30-8.00 The Tuesday Special (215)
11.40 Central Sports Special (470370)
12.45am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (6773600)

1.20 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (2771151)
1.40 War of the Worlds (5854600)
2.30 The Paul Ross Show (9735838)
3.55 Central Joffinder '97 (8047172)
5.20 Asian Eye (9103884)

NBCWESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6289741)
12.55 Home and Away (7227031)
1.20-1.50 Emeraldale (79327031)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9834963)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (81944)
7.30-8.00 Blooming Marvellous: On the Road (215)
11.40 Highlander (893708)

NBCMERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9834963)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (600)
6.30-7.00 Relative Knowledge (401)
7.30-8.00 Ambulance (215)
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (893708)
5.00am Freescreen (98779)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (2223470)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9834963)
6.23 Anglia Weather (727012)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (122789)
7.30-8.00 Crown and Country (215)
11.40 Midweek Kick-Off Coca-Cola Cup action (893708)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (18673)
8.00 Yegollion (503678)
11.30 Powerhouse (9234)
12.00 Sesame Street (44925)
12.30pm Ricki Lake (32645)
1.00 Slot Melthrin (40367942)
1.15 Pingu (45317447)
1.30 Munro (94333876)
1.40 Film: Seven Thieves (15715215)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (437)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (944)
4.30 United Tastes of America (126)
5.00 5 Pump: Used 5 (1470)
5.30 Countdown (708)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (213234)
6.10 Heno (890128)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (978079)
7.25 Y Brodyr Bach (277128)
8.00 Portreadur: Aneurin Jones (7654)
8.30 Newyddion (6789)
9.00 Y Palment Aur (5383)
10.00 Brookside (484654)
10.35 Frazier (550675)
11.05 Equinox (804741)
12.05am Streets of Fire (6195529)
1.05-2.05 Witness (8886536)

CHANNEL 4


6.00am Sesame Street (13215)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (18673)
9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (T) (5506296)
9.22 Lost Animals (1962470) **9.30 Eureka!** (T) (4428557) **9.45 Shop, Look, Listen** (T) (4416012) **10.00 Fourways Farm** (4513383) **10.10 TVM** (T) (2818627) **10.25 How We Used to Live** (T) (7668924) **10.45 Quest** (T) (9713316) **11.00 First Edition** **N** (3348234) **11.15 Stage One** (T) (3338587)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (92374) **12.00 Sesame Street** (44925) **12.30pm Light Lunch** (90321) **1.30 Gardens Without Borders** (T) (84304123) **1.45 What on Earth?** (58079932)
1.55 Sailor of the King (1953, b/w) Jeffrey Hunter, Michael Rennie, Wendy Hiller and Bernard Lee star in this Second World War drama directed by Roy Boulting (82056895)
2.30 Collector's Lot (T) (437) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (944) **4.30 Countdown** (T) (1781128) **4.55 Ricki Lake** (T) (9521353) **5.30 Pet Rescue** (T) (708)
6.00 Monthwatch **F** magazine presented by Johnny Vaughan (321)
6.30 Roseanne The Connors compete to see who can come up with the scariest Halloween costume (T) (673)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (341147)
7.55 Golden Oldies Another couple celebrate their golden wedding (852789)
8.00 Deals on Wheels Advice on buying a second-hand car (2/65) (T) (7654)
8.30 Brookside Will Cassie accept Mick's offer? Will Jacqui go back on her word? (T) (6789)

Religion divides a family (9.00pm)
9.00 [REDACTED] Cutting Edge: The End is Nigh Two stories of love among the Jehovah's Witnesses (T) (5383)
10.00 Underworld Black comedy series starring James Fleet and Susan Woodridge. Susan and William reeling from their encounters with the criminally insane escape to the relative calm of Margate (T) (2611505)
11.05 Roy Bremner - Who Else? (T) (425231)
11.45 The Living End (1992) starring Mike Dyrlid and Craig Gilmore. A road movie that challenges the presentation of HIV and contemporary gay issues. Directed by Greg Araki (T) (131296)
12.00am Late Night Ricki Lake (T) (6172155)
2.05 The Bureau (1/4) (T) (6345123)
3.05 Carl Hiaasen's Miami (T) (73149093)
3.30 Letter from America with Christopher Hitchens (T) (56666635)
4.00 Schools: Making Sense of Science (4168797) **5.15 Planning for Primary** RE (8505408)

CHANNEL

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz, sound: 7.92 and 7.20 Mhz.

6.00am 5 News Early (2550857)
7.30 Milkshake (4213499) **7.35 Stockin' Around** (r) (6607055) **8.00 HavaKazoo** (r) (6198875)
8.30 WideWorld Documentary series on human migration. How people have been moving from the land to the cities in Brazil for 150 years (R/10) (7548316)
9.00 Espresso (2595302) **10.00 Exclusive** (r) (8662654) **10.30 Period Rooms** (r) (r) (7643686)
11.00 Lezza (7257708) **11.50 Double Espresso** (9431708) **12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful** (r) (5948353) **12.30pm Family Affairs** (r) (r) (8437741)
1.05 5 News 1.05 Sunset Beach (r) (3226215) **2.00 5's Company** (8294383)
3.30 Anastasia: The Mystery of Anna (1986) Conclusion of the made-for-television historical drama begun yesterday, starring Amy Irving as the woman who claimed she was the sole surviving member of the Russian Royal Family. Directed by Marvin J. Chomsky (8401925)
5.20 5's Company: Late Edna (1368830) **5.30 Whittle** (r) (3681963) **6.00 100 Per Cent** (3688876)
6.30 Family Affairs Holly announces that she wants to come out of the closet (r) (3679128)
7.00 Exclusive Entertainment news (5260302)
7.30 Dwellers of the Deep The advancing Queensland coastland (r) (3686012)



PR wizard Max Clifford (8.00pm)

8.00 Vanessa's Day With Vanessa Feltz spends a day with the PR guru Max Clifford (r) (5279050)
8.30 5 News (r) (5265857)
9.00 Tornado! (1996) with Bruce Campbell and Shannon Spinks. Made-for-television drama about a scientist who develops an early-warning tornado detector. Noel Nosseck directs (r) (81029470)
10.35 The Jack Docherty Show The guests are Eddie Izzard, Murray Walker and Gary Barlow (5453444)
11.20 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3975760)
12.20am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine including motorsport and football action from the Latin American leagues (37742074)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco starring Karl Malden (r) (730277)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2583567)



Religion divides a family (9.00pm)



PR wizard Max Clifford (8.00pm)

● For further listings see Saturday's Vision

SKY 1

6.00am *Morning Glory* (1999/99) 8.00 *Hotel*
 9.30ptv, 10.00 *Anchor Watch* (4/95) 11.00
 12.00 *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* (1993) 1.00
 2.00 *Days of Our Lives* 3.00 *Golden Palace* (21/96)
 2.00 *Say, She Said* (1998) 3.00 *Married... with Children* (1993) 4.00 *Baywatch* (1989)
 4.30 *Jeopardy!* (2012) 5.00 *60 Minutes* 5.30
 6.00 *20/20* 6.30 *Dr. Phil* (2002) 7.00 *Dr. Oz* 7.30
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Spillane's Mike Hammer: Murder Takes All (1966) (4374726) \$3.95 Nadine (1967) 89487278) 4.95 Close

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REPORT

1988 Olympic Games Magazine (86012)
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CARTON
All your fav
5.00am to

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NETWORK
The cartoons broadcast from 7-8 p.m., seven days a week.

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(196035) 1.50 120
 of Fun (37432) 2.50
 (56567) 3.00 Fraser
 Everett (47B19)
 2.00 Fantasy Movie
 3.50 Wet and Wild
 On the Horizon 5.00
 Pathfinders 6.00
 Innocent Abroad 7.00

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Snow Satan 4.30
Round Britain 5.30
Acts of Life 6.30
Travel Live 8.00 Free!

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30 On the Horizon
on the Road to the

CHANNEL

Inner British Soil
Journal (2437302)
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(cable)

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for Thought 1.30
net for a Day 2.30
Antony & Scotlan
Fletcher 4.00 For
a Taste of the

Shower of Jeannie
10.10 Jerry
and the Headless
Man Why Me? 1.00
Steady Cook 2.30
Jerry at Three 4.05 Jerry
and 3.50 Lucky Ladies
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and Miracles 8.00
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TENNIS 50

Challengers line up to take on Hingis

SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 53

San Francisco book place in play-offs



TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 1997

Cricketers pitch into debate

In Australia, inordinate financial demands are being reinforced by the stark threat of strike action. In England the claims are more moderate, the language less shrill but the message is the same. Cricketers are shedding the dated traditions of mute subservience and seeking a voice and influence to match their profile in the game.

Unused to being questioned from the shop floor, English administrators have reacted sensitively to the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the country's players to debate the new domestic structure, a decision being augmented by the organising of a formal ballot on the issue. Now, they must address fresh implications as the players turn their attention to other contentious areas.

In the coming weeks, their representatives will call for profound changes in contract regulations, focusing on worrying trends concerning the position of players' agents and the creation of a covert

transfer system. They are also to pursue their case for a more equitable share of the game's central revenue to fund their own affairs.

David Graveney, general secretary of the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) and spokesman for the country's players, believes a close dialogue with the establishment is imperative to avoid the impasse that has occurred in Australia. "We are entering an important year that will dictate the way the game is conducted in the future. We all have to choose where we want to go from here and everyone must do some listening."

Graveney is keen to distance his own players from events in Australia, where the players' startling demands for 50 per cent of the game's income, almost half of which would go directly to the small elite of the international squad, is causing such discord. "They have a stand-off between players and administrators, with delegates breaking off talks and walking out of meetings."

Alan Lee finds players demanding more involvement in the running of the game

"I like to think we have a far better relationship with our Board but the PCA exists on a relatively small annual grant that takes no account of increased revenue and we are seeking a more formal basis of funding. We are expanding our scope for the good of all and this is the difference between being old enough and responsible enough to run our own business rather than asking our elders for pocket-money."

Graveney was struck by the force of feeling against the hastily compromised playing programme agreed by the counties in September and, specifically, by the hardening of players' support for two divisions in the county championship. If the counties who make up the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) are bracing themselves for a challenge on this matter, however, they must also prepare to consider the players' opinions on reforming the increasingly abused regulations governing transfers.

A four-man working party, involving Graveney and Tim O'Gorman for the PCA and Steve Coverdale and Mike Vickins for the ECB, will meet shortly to discuss the whole area of player movement and the thrust of the PCA proposal will

protect the counties' investment in their young players while arguing for freedom of movement for cricketers over 25. "We don't want players to be completely free agents. That would destroy the game," Graveney said. "We need counties to be compensated if they lose a young player, because otherwise they will simply abandon their youth policies, which would be disastrous. Equally, we need to reflect modern times and acknowledge that players no longer regard a one-club career as the norm. We have to ask if the List One and List Two method is still workable."

The increasing power of agents worries Graveney and, again mirroring the PFA, he would like each would-be agent to pay a bond to the game to establish his credentials. Alternatively, he suggests the PCA could perform the role itself and "act as intermediaries between players and counties to stop money flowing out of the game in agents' fees."

The latest "career move" by Chris Lewis, who has rejoined Leicestershire from Surrey, and the ongoing saga of Chris Adams have intensified concern over agents and spiralling salaries. Graveney said: "The current system means that the best way to make money from the game, for a player and his agent, is to keep moving around, and that cannot be healthy. There is obvious potential

West Indies surrender — 54

for damage in the dressing-room if one player is paid twice as much as anyone else and I fear some clubs are also ignoring the harsh lessons of other sports and spending money they haven't got.

The most important element in all that we discuss must be that a 15-year-old boy, faced with alternative sporting careers, chooses cricket and never regrets it. At the moment, that is not happening often enough."

Canoeists head for troubled waters

By JOHN GOODBODY

A LEADING canoeing coach is leading a campaign to stop Britain's top competitors being forced to use the slalom course at the national watersports centre at Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham, where polluted water has caused many people to suffer stomach upsets.

Members of the British Canoe Union have been urged to pass a resolution at the annual meeting on Saturday to allow competitors to take part in trial races on other courses and not to be obliged to use Holme Pierrepont. Jim Joyce, a leading coach, is protesting that national squad members are being asked to sign a statement sent by Alan Edge, the national coach, reading that "the issue of water quality at Holme Pierrepont should not be used as a reason to prevent the site being chosen as a venue for GB team and squad selection events".

In 1995, the course was closed five times because of pollution and the Sports Council (now the English Sports Council) funded a study by the medical school at Nottingham University. This found that there was "a significant rate of gastro-intestinal illnesses after using the slalom course".

However, one of the five authors, Dr Simon Dawson, who is a canoeist, said yesterday: "There is a problem, but it is minor compared to those in other sports. We should not overstate the case."

Dr Keith Neal, another of the authors, accepted that there was a health hazard but said that competitors had to balance that against the excellent medical support available at Holme Pierrepont to deal with accidents.

Brian Pluckrose, the centre's manager, pointed out that the course had only been closed three times this year because of pollution, and one of these was a diesel spill. Until August, there had only been 20 reported cases of illness from the 30,000 users of the slalom course this year. The centre now has computerised equipment to monitor pollution.

Ferguson moves for Chile striker

United consider £20m record deal for Salas

By DAVID MADDOCK AND MATT DICKINSON

MANCHESTER United have been asked to pay a world-record transfer fee of £20 million for Marcelo Salas, the Chilean striker who plays for the River Plate club in Argentina. Negotiations between the two clubs were opened after Alex Ferguson, the United manager, watched Salas play for Chile on Sunday. It is understood that Maurice Watkins, a United director, has travelled to Argentina to try to agree a fee.

Ferguson saw Salas score in the 3-0 victory over Bolivia, a result which gave Chile a place in the World Cup finals. The manager has remained in South America and will not return to his office until Thurs-

day. But already there have been difficulties. River Plate want to make a £13 million profit on Salas, but with taxes in Argentina that would require an outlay of £20 million by United.

Martin Edwards, the club chairman, has indicated he is only prepared to pay half that fee.

Ferguson, though, confirmed that his interest in the player is strong. "Italians, Spanish and German players all want to come to England, and I think it shows it is the best league in the world," he said. "I believe Salas could play there without any problem. He is a goalscorer and a very good player, and every-

one is interested in players like that."

Now Watkins must reduce the asking price for the 22-year-old. United's hand may have been strengthened by the fact that Juventus, of Italy, were also interested in the Chilean, but are not prepared to pay such a huge figure.

River Plate have recently been playing the two European clubs off against each other, but the Italians have withdrawn from the bidding. Without an auction, United are far more likely to persuade River Plate to be more reasonable in their demands.

Ferguson has been pictured on national television in Argentina, where he confirmed that the goalscorer's prowess has impressed him. Reports in the Argentinian media suggest that United have a reasonable chance of reducing the fee. Edwards confirmed yesterday that negotiations have started between the two clubs, and Watkins will continue talks this week. If there is movement closer to United's valuation, then Edwards will fly out to conclude the deal, possibly as early as this weekend.

Salas could be joined on the World Cup stage next summer by several players from the FA Carling Premiership who might have only dreamt of it before Jamaica's qualification on Sunday. Frank Sinclair, of Chelsea, Marcus Gayle, of Wimbledon, Danny Maddix, of Queens Park Rangers, and Chris and Darryl Powell, of Derby County, head the list of targets that the Jamaican Football Federation will be sounding out as potential Reggae Boyz as they plan the next stage of their remarkable adventure.

After the success of the first



Salas, right, celebrates the goal that he scored on Sunday which helped Chile through to the World Cup finals

batch of English recruits, notably the Derby striker, Dean Burton, who has become the country's sporting idol, do not be surprised to find a queue of Premiership footballers at Somerset House this week anxiously checking for West Indian descent as Jamaican immigrants the world over rediscover a lost allegiance.

Gayle, whose Wimbledon team-mate, Robbie Earle, is already part of the Jamaica squad, has had preliminary talks.

There is also the issue of incentives: Earle, Burton and the Portsmouth pair, Fitzroy Simpson and Paul Hall, are already planning holiday homes on the plots of land given to each member of the successful squad by P.J. Patterson, the Jamaican Prime

Minister, along with help with building costs, as reward for qualification.

The issue of new recruits is, though, a delicate one for Rene Simoes, the Brazilian who coaches Jamaica. He is wary of upsetting a nation which has been united as never before thanks to its football

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team, the country closing down yesterday for a national holiday to mark the unprecedented achievement of reaching France next summer.

"I have to be careful," he said. "I know there are other players in England that can be selected, but I want to get the

approval of the existing squad. The country must have pride in their team and we have to get the balance right."

Jamaica had hoped their preparations for France would include a friendly game against England at Wembley. "Obviously we would love to play at Wembley and maybe with many Jamaicans in England, they can apply some pressure," Simoes said yesterday. "We are coming to Europe for the World Cup draw and we have many offers to discuss."

However, Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the Football Association, claimed yesterday that England's itinerary was too full until next year at the earliest.

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Larder switches to join union

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE man who wrote the official rugby league coaching manual was yesterday named as the surprise choice to work alongside Clive Woodward, the England rugby union coach, for the forthcoming matches against New Zealand and South Africa. For Phil Larder, preparing the England team to face the mighty All Blacks on Saturday will be a huge leap from coaching Huddersfield YMCA.

Larder was the Great Britain rugby league coach a year ago and, last May, he was dismissed after seven months at Sheffield Eagles. He struggled to find employment, but has now been given a chance by the Rugby Football Union (RFU). If all goes well, it will consider him for a role as national development officer to work with elite players.

His appointment was news to the Rugby Football League (RFL), where Larder was director of coaching for nine years until 1992, and brings the number of coaches in the

England set-up under Woodward to four. "Phil brings a wealth of experience with him from a code which I respect and from which, I believe, we can learn and incorporate into our game," Woodward said.

Until six months ago, Larder, 52, had had nothing to do with union since he turned professional in 1968 with

Oldham. Even yesterday, his name was still being linked with the coaching vacancy at Leeds.

On leaving Sheffield, Larder applied for a rugby union coaching course, has helped at Sale, under John Mitchell, the director of rugby and England assistant coach, where Larder once played as a centre. Since the start of the season, he has been coaching Huddersfield YMCA, his local club, who are unbeaten at the top of Yorkshire Two.

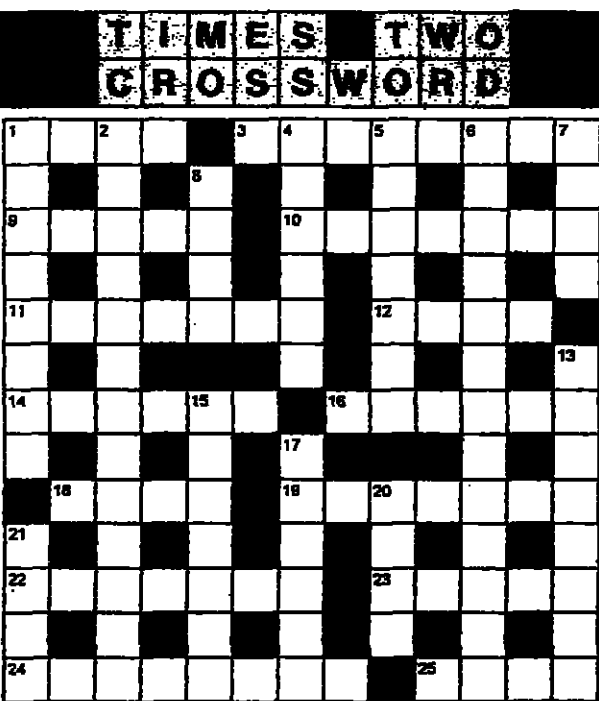
As qualifications for coaching England go, however, Larder's experience is not exactly extensive. A former teacher, born in Oldham, he played both codes at school and union for Brougham Park, Loughborough University, Manchester and Sale, before a 12-year stint in league for Oldham and a spell at Whitehaven.

His development at the RFL of the national coaching

scheme helped to bring several young British coaches to prominence. He left his desk in Leeds to take charge of Widnes and, within a year, became the first non-Australian in four years to coach a team to a Challenge Cup final.

Keighley Cougars won the second division and divisional premiership titles under his guidance in 1995, the same year that he was appointed on a two-year international contract.

England beat Australia in the opening match of the 1995 World Cup, but Larder was criticised for his tactical intransigence when the result was reversed in the final. Despite a 3-0 whitewash for Great Britain in New Zealand 12 months ago, Larder varied his tactics little during the series, but he will bring valued technical assistance to Woodward in his new role.



No 1254

ACROSS

- 1 A grain: Archie —, *The Entertainer* (4)
- 3 Irish emblem (8)
- 9 Patient line (5)
- 10 Elan, dashing style (7)
- 11 Encroach (7)
- 12 Decisive moment: puzzle (4)
- 14 Bird house (6)
- 16 Soak up (6)
- 18 By remarriage (4-): pace (4)
- 19 Gaunt: a hawk (7)
- 22 Vampire Count (7)
- 23 African republic, cap. Kinshasa (5)
- 24 Anxiety of uncertainty (8)
- 25 Canvas shelter (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1253

- ACROSS: 1 Habitat 5 Tiff 8 Plane 9 Shriveled 11 Roe 12 Armadillo 13 Ladder 15 Landau 16 Remission 19 Hoe 20 Snippet 21 Lives 22 Toga 23 Sentinel
DOWN: 1 Hospital 2 Blaise 3 The game is up 4 Assame 6 Invalid 7 Folio 10 Redgum 14 Dumping 16 Utensil 17 Virtue 18 Resit 19 Haven

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Larder: new coaching role

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